

R. H. Russell
EXTRACTS
OF THE 4136, ad 58
JOURNALS
OF SEVERAL
MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL;
BEING

An Account of their Labours in several Parts
of *England*, during the Summer 1781.

In a SERIES of LETTERS
TO THE
COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON.

*And He said unto them Go ye into all the World, and
preach the Gospel to every Creature. And they went forth,
and preached every where, the Lord working with them,
and confirming the Word with Signs following. Mark xvi.
15. 20.*

*Preach the Word, be instant in Season, out of Season.
2 Tim. xiv. 2.*

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages contain a partial outline of a plan most beneficent to mankind, and honorable to the ever-blessed Redeemer; projected, and first begun to be executed, in the summer last past. The noble intention of the person who proposed it is, that once at least every year, the voice of mercy, through a Savior's inexhaustible merits, should be sounded in the ears of millions, by Gospel-Ministers sent into every city, town, and larger village, throughout the kingdom. From these centers, it is presumed, Grace and Truth may be propagated to each surrounding vicinage: so that innumerable multitudes may have opportunity of hearing the Word of Salvation. An object which cannot fail of engaging the hearts and prayers of all Christians of every denomination, who feel the worth of immortal souls, and the value of a Redeemer's blood.

To the Congregations, whose ardent zeal for this attempt hath appeared in their eager and ample contributions, after a most liberal pattern by their Noble Friend, the following relation must be peculiarly pleasing. And, what these papers could not recite, the success, which hath appeared in many places since the Ministers labors,

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gives the fullest assurance of divine approbation and concurrence. The fallow ground of many hearts hath been broken up, and the word of the kingdom is sprung up with every prospect of a glorious and eternal harvest.

To the Righteous in general, not included in the above particular description, the great design here imagined must afford the truest delight, at least from the proof it gives, that the New Reformation, of now more than forty years standing, does not yet stagnate in putrid formality and dulness, but briskly, like a running stream, diffuses the waters of life, and in its antient temper works its way through every obstacle of persecution, bigotry, and ignorance.

*Neither may it be improper to remark, that one of the first eminence in letters and philosophy, in the present century, and confessedly most remote from enthusiasm, hath been often heard to declare, that the year 1736, which was, without his observing it, the date of Mr. Whitefield's public labors, was, in his opinion, the entrance of the Millennium. Certainly, the wide spread of the gospel from that time, by numberless ministers and students, resembles that spiritual Advent; and may be, notwithstanding the remaining coldness and darkness of the many, the January of the acceptable year of the Lord. And certainly, from the year 476, when the old Roman empire was entirely dissolved by the de-
position*

position of Augustulus, when the Ten Horns formally appeared in its room, and when the Bishops of Rome made great progress in their usurpations, to the æra of the New Reformation, 1736, is exactly 1260 years, the space allotted to the reign of Antichrist, in the Revelations. Which reign is more effectually begun to be undermined by the doctrines of Grace, from that time peculiarly and extensively displayed, than by any other arts that can be employed for its essential ruin.

*Lastly: To the state itself, the design here essayed to be executed, ought plainly to be an object, not of mere Toleration, extended now to even intolerant Papists, but of countenance and honor. For the principles thus disseminating, so far from opposing, exalt the doctrine of the Established Church: and their virtuous frame and tendency seem to be, now all other methods fail, the most effectual means of reclaiming men from the general and extreme immorality and profaneness of the present day. For, from the moment these truths take real hold of the heart, the man invariably commences, not merely decent and moral (heathen systems could effect this), nor barely the good citizen and subject (vulgar motives can operate thus far), but humble, holy, and happy, and, what the scripture calls, A Partaker of the Divine Nature. The instances that look contrary, are those only of false brethren and hypocrites mixing with all societies,
and*

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and chiefly with the best: but these are comparatively rare; and no more affect the character of the cause, than convulsive distortions disparage the general human beauty and proportion, or the treachery of Judas invalidates the mission of Christ and the apostles.

Respecting the unworthy Writer of this Introduction (necessary, as the Printer alledged, from some one) nothing but the obligations and dependency of his peculiar station, restrain him from not only prefacing these sheets, but heartily and universally joining in the labors they recite.

THOMAS PENTYCROSS.

A JOURNAL

A

JOURNAL, &c.

Honor'd MADAM,

I Now sit down, according to your Ladyship's kind commands, to give you some account of our progress. Blessed be God! hitherto he has helped us; and though we have met with some disappointments by reason of the weather, which has been so rainy as to prevent my preaching out of doors in those places where I had intended to do it, yet I humbly hope my poor labour has not been in vain in the Lord. Through mercy we arrived at *Glastonbury*, on *Tuesday, June 19*, about five o'clock in the afternoon. Here we met some serious people from *Wells*, who came to attend the preaching, which had been published by the Minister Mr. M. on the *Sunday* before, to be in the Dissenting Meeting at seven o'clock this evening. Considering this to be a very dead place, not above fourteen on the *Sunday* morning, and about forty in the afternoon, under a sound Minister, (as I am told) who is encouraged to preach here

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only every other Lord's Day, and the inhabitants in general being in the greatest darkness, I was glad to find the house, porch, &c. very full. The congregation, consisted, I suppose, of three or four hundred, which heard with great attention and solemnity; some appeared much affected whilst I discoursed from these words, *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? Heb. ch. ii. ver. 3.* There appeared such a spirit of hearing, with so many enquiries when I would preach again, that the Minister was induced to appoint preaching sooner by a week than the usual course, in hopes the Lord would continue the same unusual disposition in the hearers which he was now an eye-witness of. To the great Master of the Harvest I desire to look for the increase.—On *Wednesday* the 20th we met with an accident which detained us on the road; but, through our good Shepherd's care, arrived at *Bridgewater* at noon, and at *Taunton* in the evening. Having not a moment to spare, I sent to the Rev. Mr. R. who came to me with the most cordial affection, and desired me to preach immediately at his meeting, which is a large one. Here I found several hundreds assembled, many of whom, I trust, received the word with joy, whilst all listened with the utmost attention. My subject, which was taken from *Rom. ch. xiv. ver. 17.* *The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the*

the Holy Ghost ; led me to insist that it was not the being a Churchman or Dissenter that would carry us to Heaven, but the experimental knowledge of the power and grace of Christ in our own souls, through the special influences of the Holy Ghost.—We returned to Mr. R.'s house, by his pressing invitation, and slept under his hospitable roof. The evening was spent very agreeably with his family, three of whom were young men under his care, training up for the ministry, that appear very serious.—Mr. R. prayed very sweetly.—It pleased God to give us good rest, which we were the more thankful for, as we had been much disturbed the night before, by the songs of the drunkards in the Inn at *Glastonbury*. Thus we are taught the value of common mercies by our being occasionally deprived of them.—*Thursday*, the 21st, after I had prayed with Mr. R.'s family, we set out for *Watchet* ; but just before we parted, I saw a gracious elderly woman, who blessed God for the last night's preaching, and spoke feelingly of the necessity of the kingdom of God being set up within us ; and that she had longed for my giving out preaching again at 6 o'clock this morning. Mr. R. had great hopes the Lord was present with us, and that good was done. He lamented much the bigotry of some serious ministers, as well Dissenters as those in the Establishment, and gave me a printed letter of his own to Sir *H. T.* which is one of

the many proofs of his being a faithful servant of Christ, contending earnestly for his Master's glory.—In the afternoon we arrived safely at *Watchet*, and in a few minutes very heavy rain came on. Mr. and Mrs. *N.* were not at home, having been absent six months; so that the poor people here and at *Minehead* have been without a preacher since Mr. *H.* left them, and are extremely anxious that your Ladyship would send them help. Indeed I cannot but second their request, as there are some precious people at both places, who are at present as sheep without a shepherd. The rain was so incessant both here and at *Minehead*, as to prevent my preaching out of doors, which I had fully intended, and many could not come from the neighbouring villages who had desired it. However, there were some that were truly hungry and thirsting after righteousness; and the Lord, they acknowledged, gave them a good meal, from *Isaiah*, ch. xlv. ver. 24. *Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.* There were so many and so hearty *Amens* put up from these poor dear people, and their singing was so lively, that they reminded me of a small *Welsh* congregation.—*Friday* the 22d. Mr. *C.* a Dissenting Minister in the neighbourhood, who came through the rain to hear me the night before, and preaches occasionally at *Watchet* when they are in necessity, came and prayed very sweetly with us, and the family

family at the Inn, and soon after we set off for *Minehead*. Here the chapel was very well filled; and, by the enlargement I felt in my own soul, and the visible appearance on the faces of the people, I have no doubt but the Lord was among us of a truth. Indeed, I had not felt so much of his presence since I had been on this journey as I did here. Many seemed much affected, particularly a young woman, who was observed to be much in tears during great part of the sermon, whilst I was drawn out earnestly to invite poor sinners, *as such*, to come to Christ, according to the subject I had been discoursing upon, from these words, *This man receiveth sinners*, *Luke xv. 2.* After sermon I gave the Lord's Supper to the society, who were full of praises to God for such a time of *refreshing from his presence*. There were some very gracious people come out of the country five or six miles, and returned in the rain, full of praises to the Lord.—On *Saturday* the 23d, we set off for *Barnstaple*, about seven in the morning; but, owing to the immense hills, and excessive badness of the roads, occasioned by the rain, were obliged to stop short 12 miles, at *South-Moulton*, which we did not reach till eight at night, having taken *six* hours to travel the last fourteen miles; indeed, it was with the utmost difficulty that the horses drew us at all; but our good Shepherd brought us safe at last. — *Sunday* the

24th, we set off very early for *Ashford*, near *Barnstable*, but Mr. B. the Rector of the parish, had given me over, and the people were dispersed till two o'clock, when I was expected to preach. Here I heard that neither Mr. L. an eminent Dissenting Minister at *Biddeford*, would let me preach in his pulpit, nor some other professors, that had a preaching-room there, would permit me the use of it, but I determined to go, knowing the Lord manages best, and the government is upon his shoulders. Mr. B.'s church was very full, and the people heard with great attention, whilst I spoke in the plainest and closest manner from *Matt. ch. v. ver. 20. Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven*: insomuch, that Mr. B. was constrained to address them from the desk in a short exhortation, after I had done. I now prepared to set off for *Biddeford*; but some people from *Barnstable* begged me to preach there in the evening: I considered this a call from the Lord, especially as I had not been given out at *Biddeford*: but there were difficulties in the way; the gentry and mob threatened great opposition, the Dissenting Minister, though said to be a serious man, had refused his Meeting, on application before and after I came; those that had attempted to preach out of doors were pelted, and obliged to desist, and rotten eggs had
been

been prepared all the week against my coming: however, I knew my Master was stronger than the devil and the world together; and though I expected rioting, I determined to venture my life in his hands, and went out into the street. Many hundreds attended, and there was great solemnity in general: many much impressed; some of the gentry were disposed at first to trifling, but even of these not a few listened, as for life. My subject was taken from *Luke ch. xiv. ver. 28. Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in.* Many of the fearful and unbelieving acknowledged afterwards the Lord was infinitely better than their fears, and thus he hath given us victory in the day of battle.—The Post is just going out; I know Mr. L. will excuse my not writing to him, as my hands, my head, and my heart have been so full of business to this moment. May the Lord Jesus bless you abundantly!

Dear MADAM,

Barnstaple, June 24,
1781.

Your most Dutiful,

T. W.

I hope before this reaches your Ladyship you will have received an account of our journey as far as *Barnstaple*. I will now continue

our Journal. — *Barnstaple, Monday, June 25.* We heard of some under deep impressions from the last night's Discourse, that could get no sleep, so that I saw clearly the hand of God in this matter. Here Mr. B. and his family dined with us at the Inn, and his eldest son had been so much alarmed under the word, that his father was obliged to talk to him, by way of encouragement and comfort, almost the whole night. He told his father he wished to go with us, even if he travelled bare-footed the whole journey; but, being an apprentice, his going even the next stage with us was impracticable. Mr. B. was in a sweet spirit, rejoiced in my present itinerant employment, and declared if he had strength, &c. he would do the same, and begged to walk with me over the town, that he might hereby publicly testify his warmest approbation. I now intended to set out for *Biddeford*, and preach there this evening; but before we left this town, Mr. J. a most gracious man, who had been employed by Mr. H. of *Exeter*, to give notice of my coming thither, informed me that several hundreds had been assembled the night before at *Biddeford*, and waited some hours for my arrival. This determined me to desire him to go back, and give notice that I should preach on the *Castle-hill* at seven o'clock. We left *Barnstaple* about three, and though we missed the right road for some miles, through the kind care and
pro-

protection of our Almighty Shepherd, we arrived safe and in due time for the preaching. Soon after I went to the *Castle-hill*, and preached on *Luke*, ch. x. ver. 3. *But a certain Samaritan as he journeyed came where he was, and when he saw him he had compassion on him.*—There was a large company. Some were much affected, and we had no disturbance but from one man in the skirts of the congregation, much in liquor, who seemed full of rage and enmity, fit for any work the devil would put him upon; however, our gracious Lord soon removed him from us, and there was a great solemnity among the hearers.—*Tuesday 26*, our hearts were much revived with the joyful news of some who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin under the last night's discourse, particularly Mr. J.'s daughter, who had been ever before remarkably hardened against all she had heard from her father and others, from time to time.—A very reputable tradesman was deeply distressed, trembling and weeping all last night and this morning about his salvation; and though he said he had at times before some slight concern about his soul, it went off like the early dew; but now, for the first time, he felt conviction come with power to his heart; many others discovering also much concern about the one thing needful.—Thus, notwithstanding the contempt and opposition we met with here, not so
much

much from the world as from dry, formal professors of the doctrines of the gospel, much good appears to be done, through the love and mercy of our adorable Saviour! Great, never-ceasing praise to his precious name, who will carry on his own work, though opposed in the house of his friends!—At nine o'clock we set off for *Torrington*, six miles from *Biddesford*, a very bad hilly road; here we baited on our way to *Hetherbeg*, a poor village, where we slept this night. It was evening before we arrived, and not knowing any one person here, nor perceiving any door open for preaching, we remained at the Inn. — *Wednesday 27*, we set out in the morning for *Launceston*; and, though we missed our way again, the providence of our gracious Guide brought a man soon on the road, who directed us the right way, and we arrived at *Bridestow*, a small village, about eleven o'clock, where we baited, and proceeded in the afternoon to *Launceston*. — There the town-hall was procured for me by Mr. J. S. a gracious man, who carries on a Meeting here, and has been greatly blessed to the awakening of many, who appear very simple-hearted and lively souls. The hall was filled, and crowded at the door. I discoursed on *Philippians*, ch. iii. ver. 8, 9, *Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung*

ding that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.—The congregation heard with great attention.—A young man was a little troublesome, by talking aloud; but, on my desiring him to be silent, we heard no more of him. After the sermon was over, I was so earnestly solicited by many of the serious people to give them a word of exhortation in the morning before I left the town, that I appointed a meeting soon after seven o'clock.—*Thursday 28.* According to my last evening's engagement I went before breakfast to the meeting-room, where I found the Society and a great many others assembled, and the Lord gave us a precious season, favouring us peculiarly with his presence: The subject was taken from *Psalms lxxxix. ver. 15, 16. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance: in thy name shall they rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.*—They acknowledged the Lord's blessing them much under the word, and our souls were so refreshed, that I trust most of us retained a sweet savour of his precious name on our hearts.

After breakfasting with Mrs. M. and her daughter, the family of my late worthy friend,
who

who was a faithful Minister of Christ, we set out for *Bodmin*, and baiting on the road, reached that place (through the tender mercy of our God) by tea-time. There I preached in the street, near the Town-hall; and, besides the congregation around me, many heard at a distance at their doors and windows. Whilst thus standing up a spectacle to men and angels (however trying it was to my corrupt nature) glory be to God! I felt it my honour to be counted a fool for Christ's sake; and that if he was glorified, and souls brought to the knowledge of Him, I could then suffer to be counted as the filth and off-scouring of all things.—A drunken man attempted to make some disturbance, but Mr. *P.* who met me here, soon removed him.—Some gracious persons followed me to Mr. *E.*'s, and were thankful to the Lord for this opportunity.—*Friday 29.* Having received a kind letter from the Rev. Mr. *F.* with an invitation to his house, which lay on our road; we called upon him, and having this evening to spare, I thought of preaching at *St. Columb*, and sent a messenger on purpose, six miles, to desire Mr. *W.* to publish my preaching out of doors that evening; but I perceived afterwards from several circumstances, that the door was not yet open there, though he begged I would fix some other time. We determined then to proceed on our journey towards *St. Agnes*, but could not reach further

ther than *Michell*, where it was too late to attempt preaching.—Thus through the coldness and backwardness of some of our *prudent* professing friends, this day was a lost day. — *Saturday 30.* We set out for *St. Agnes*, and through the care of our Faithful Shepherd, arrived at *Mithian* by noon, at my friend Mr. N.'s, which he kindly insisted on making our head quarters whilst we staid at *St. Agnes*. —The remainder of the day was taken up in talking with many of my dear old people belonging to the society. Their joy at seeing me, as well as mine at once more seeing them, was inexpressibly great. — *Sunday, July 1,* I went about eight in the morning to preach at the door of the new Chapel, where there were supposed to be about three thousand to hear the word. The general joy in their countenances is not to be conceived by those who were not eye witnesses of it. The words of the text were taken from *Rom. ch. i. ver. 9, 10, 11, 12*, as expressive of my own heart's desire towards them: *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; making request, if by any means, now at length I might have a prosperous journey, by the will of God, to come unto you, for I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; that is, that I may be comforted together with*

with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.—I was particularly led to address myself closely, affectionately, and faithfully to the consciences of saints and sinners.—The Lord make it a word in season! Very many were bowed down under the discourse, and hundreds vying with each other, immediately after preaching, who should sieze my hand first. In the afternoon I went to *Bosveal*, and called on the way upon an old member of our society, who has lately lost the use of one side by a stroke of the palsy. She is very happy in her soul, rejoycing in the Lord.—At five o'clock, after a ride of two hours and an half, we arrived at *Bosveal*, and found many thousands assembled in a large deep hollow ground, near your Ladyship's chapel, which is rendered convenient for the preacher, and an innumerable multitude of hearers, by circular benches cut out of the pit, in rows from top to bottom. I am at a loss to form any computation of the number, but they were supposed to be not less than ten thousand.—The word was received with the utmost solemnity.—The text *Isaiab xxvii.* the last verse. *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which are ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*—Indeed the sound of the great trumpet seemed to reach the hearts

hearts of many ; and the call to the outcasts, and those that were ready to perish, was heard with great brokenness of heart and many tears. The word, I trust, ran with power, and the Lord of a truth graced the assembly with his presence. Immediately after the service was over, I almost lost the use of my eyes and legs for a few minutes, through fatigue and faintness ; but by means of a little refreshment at St. *Dye*, speedily recovered, and the Lord brought us back in peace and safety, happy to spend and be spent in his service. I purpose, with the Lord's leave, after having preached at the several places in this neighbourhood, to proceed on our tour to the land's end on *Friday* next. Adieu, dear Madam, excuse great haste, and forget not the poor pilgrims in your petition at the throne of mercy. May our most adorable God and Saviour bless your Ladyship each day more and more with bodily strength, and with every spiritual blessing in himself!—This is the earnest prayer of him who is with the utmost gratitude,

Dear MADAM,

Mithian, July 1,
1781.

Your LADYSHIP'S

Affectionate and dutiful Servant,

T. W.

I am

I AM anxious to be assured of the arrival of my first packet, which was wrote in the midst of great fatigue from *Barnstable*, according to your Ladyship's kind command, tho' five minutes too late (as I afterwards learnt) for the post through misinformation.—I must now pursue my narrative in this third part of my journal.—On *Monday* last, *July 2*, I devoted that evening to the meeting all the society here; receiving any of them alone at their leisure through the day; and have the happiness to inform you that those whom I left behind, including some newly awakened persons just before I left them, together with some that have been called since that time, rejoice my heart; being established, I trust, in the truth, grounded on the rock of ages, and sweetly united to each other in brotherly love.—*Tuesday 3*, I preached at the Chapel door to an immense number of people, on *Luke v. ver. 31*. *They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick*.—Many poor careless sinners seemed to listen with peculiar joy to the good news of free salvation for the vilest, through the Blood of Jesus, and that his power and grace were more than a match for the most stubborn case.—Nothing can exceed the deep solemnity visible on the countenances of all sorts, and their affection is beyond conception.—*Wednesday 4*, we had preaching at *Mithian*, where we at present reside; and, from Mr. N.'s horseblock, proclaimed

proclaimed the gospel to a larger multitude than the night before, hundreds of whom came from the neighbouring parishes. The subject, by Mrs. N.'s desire, was taken from *Isaiah*, ch. xxxii. ver. 15, 16, 17. *Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.*—People of all sorts were present, rich and poor, persevering and backsliders, *Arminians*, as well as *Calvinists*. I bless the Lord I found much liberty in my own soul, with a deep sense of the Lord's presence, and the worth of precious souls.—*Thursday* the 5th, being Market-day, I appointed preaching at our chapel-door again, it being convenient for the market people also; the thousands that constantly attend never suffering me to preach within our new chapel. Here we had again a very large assembly; the subject was the strong man armed, *Luke xi* 21, 22. *When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*—Hundreds of his captives seemed convinced, and ashamed of their master's bondage; and, I cannot but hope, groaned that

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night for deliverance. After sermon was over, I administred the sacrament in the chapel to the society; and a blessed time we had. In short, though I gave an exhortation before the ordinance, and that immediately after the public preaching, I was so refreshed by the Lord's presence and this love-feast of his own appointment, that I believe we could have willingly staid till midnight. Surely, the Lord was among us of a truth, and many eyes saw, and hands handled of the word of life this evening. Glory be to his name for manifesting himself to us, as he doth not unto the world, and making himself known to us in breaking of bread! The peoples hearts rejoiced when I promised to give them another sermon, and the society another meeting, on my return from the *Land's-End*. They all say, they believe this parting will, if possible, be worse than the last: however, the Lord, I hope, will support and comfort with his cordials; and, what will overbalance all earthly losses and trials, let us know, by a sweet testimony of his spirit, that our Jesus still liveth, and that the government is on his shoulders, and none shall pluck his sheep out of his hand.—*Friday* the 6th, being *Redruth* Market-day, the largest in *Cornwall*, I determined to go thither, though advised against it on account of the rain. I knew nobody there, nor where I should preach; but one or two of my dear spiritual children had gone before me, and procured
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either the steps of a gentleman's house, or the Market-house stairs. On my arrival, the butchers stalls were removed, and with great difficulty I got through the croud to the top of the stairs. Here I opened the gospel-market to some thousands, from *Isaiah* lv. ver. 1, 2. *Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*—When the poor souls heard the words *without money* explained, you would have thought that the drunkards were for exchanging their cup of drunkenness for the cup of salvation, and the prophane swearer seemed inclined henceforth to praise the Lord for his free grace. In short, it was one of the most precious seasons I have had on the journey; and the weeping of the most hardened sinners proved that our Saviour's love could still dissolve hearts of stone. Indeed, it was so good an opportunity, that as I must take this town on my return from the west, I published myself for preaching there again on that day fortnight, the various towns westward engaging me every day in the mean time. It was remarkably striking, that after going through the publication of the different places, when I mentioned unexpectedly my

preaching again on those very steps, I perceived a general smile through the assembly. — I have been also so earnestly solicited to preach once more at *Bosveal*, that I could not refuse; when it is expected, by the publick notice that will be given in the mean time, that even greater multitudes will be assembled, than those many thousands on the last Lord's day.—Speaking of *Redruth*, I must relate to your Ladyship an incident or two that will give you pleasure. I saw this week a woman of this town, who about fifteen years ago, I think, had been under convictions about a year, and attended the preaching at Mr. *W—y*'s meeting; but had never enjoyed the comforts of the gospel. About which time it happened on a *Saturday* night, when she was in bed, and extremely weak after a lying-in, that she dreamt she saw a stranger ride through the town, followed by great numbers; she enquired what it meant, and was told he was going to preach: she immediately joined them, heard the word, and was delivered from her burden. Awaking in transports of joy, she was greatly disappointed, finding it was a dream: at length she fell asleep again, and the same dream was repeated, with this additional circumstance, that on enquiring the name of the preacher, she was told it was Mr. *Wills*, of *St. Agnes*. She had never heard me preach, nor even seen me. The Lord's
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goodness to her this night determined her to go to the publick service at church the next day, though it was a mile distance, she very weak, and no expectation of any other than the Curate of the parish; yet had a strong impression it was the Lord's will she should be there that day.—To her great mortification however, after she had dressed herself, she was told their Minister was suddenly called out of town the evening before, and there would be no service that morning.—But she was soon relieved from this disappointment. A gentleman passing by said there would be service in the church, for Mr. *Wills*, of *St. Agnes*, was requested, and had promised, to come. The name she had heard in her dream now sounding in her ears, her heart was revived, and she set out, supported by two men, for the church; when, as she was led through the street, she spied me in my riding-dress at the Inn-door, just arrived. She instantly cried out, “There’s the Minister I saw last night in my dream.” They with great difficulty prevented her from sinking to the ground, with amazement. They then conducted her to the church. My sermon was greatly bless’d to her soul; the Lord having met with her under it, and, for the first time, spoke peace to her heart, and set her at liberty. She still continues, I trust, an happy soul. This is the fact, it needs no comment.—Can any one but an infidel deny this divine inter-

position, or say that the Lord cannot, does not, still, at times, favour us with communications, even, *in visions of the night*?—The other incident, I alluded to, is that of a person of this town, who had followed his occupation of a Tinner for some time, in *Wales*: enquiring about him, I found I was in his relation's house, who is a very serious man, and told me he knew that it was his cousin I meant, for he had heard the circumstances I am about to relate, as well as myself. He had lived near the Rev. Mr. J. of *L.* in *South Wales*, but never attended the word, even once, at *Salem*. It pleased the Lord, however, to bring him to the chapel the day I preached there; his motive was because I came from *Cornwall*. But the Lord's designs were what he had no conception of; for that day he was cut down under the word, felt the strongest convictions, and went through bitter pangs before he found deliverance. He gave blessed proofs (as I have heard from *Wales*) of the Lord's having begun an effectual work of grace in his soul; and now he is removed into *Devonshire* (because he would be a partner with serious Tinnners of his acquaintance) and shews every mark of a person really converted.—Since I wrote the above, I went on *Saturday* the 7th to *Chase-Water*, and found a large company of Tinnners assembled. The meeting-house was thronged, and great numbers out of doors; but the rain that fell just before prevented my

my preaching in the open air. The passage I spoke from was taken from *Isaiah* xlv. ver. 24. *Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.*—The Tinnners were, as usual, very attentive, earnest, and much impressed. The Lord grant this word may not be in vain!—In the evening we went to *Truro*, and were most cordially received at Mr. P.'s, and saw the Rev. Mr. S. who is truly of a most catholic spirit. — *Sunday* the 8th, I preached at his Meeting; the congregation was very large indeed, this being my native town. Many souls, I trust, were watered under the word, and the doctrine of Christ crucified appeared to be a cordial to their hearts. The text was, *We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God,* 1 Cor. ch. i. ver. 23, 24. In the evening the chapel was amazingly crowded; it was with difficulty I could get through the people; great numbers surrounded the doors and windows, and steps without, and others were obliged to go away for want of room within or without; but, notwithstanding the unusual and almost intolerable pressing within, blessed be God, no accident happened; and, as soon as the service begun, there was an universal stillness. The good *Samaritan* was the subject. I felt much liberty in my own soul while speaking, and hundreds

listened to the affecting story of his divine compassion and dying love; seeming unwilling to be any longer destitute of the wine and oil, even of the atoning blood and sanctifying grace of our God and Saviour. The minister and principal members of this congregation were so full of anxious and repeated solicitations for my preaching there again the next day, that there was no resisting them; so that I was accordingly given out for the *Monday* evening. Glory be to the Lord! I am wonderfully supported; and notwithstanding the daily labours, many feverish heats and restless nights, in consequence, He carries me through all, to the surprize of all our friends, and proves to us that as my day is so shall my strength be. Your Ladyship will follow us continually with your prayers, that our Master's presence may be ever with us, and that he will bless the labours of his unworthy servant. I was this day refreshed by intelligence that the Lord had blessed my poor services at *Launceston*. My engagements will detain me about three weeks longer in this extensive country, though I shall travel and preach in a new place every day.—My letters directed to me at Mr. P.'s, *Truro*, will find me wherever I am.

I am, Dear MADAM,
Truro, July 9, Your LADYSHIP'S
 1781. Affectionate and faithful,
 T. W.

I HOPE, before this reaches your Ladyship, you will have received my third letter, with an account of our journey, wrote from *Truro*. I now continue our Journal from that time to this instant.—*Truro, Monday, July 9*, I heard of a notorious backslider being observed to attend my ministry here, and at other places, though he had for some time slighted the ordinances, cursed his minister, and followed lewd courses; but now appeared broken in heart, and wept abundantly. May the Lord effectually restore this unhappy backslider! At seven o'clock we went to the meeting again, when by the people being placed judiciously, by the Rev. Mr. S. and others, every part of the meeting was immensely crowded, and the Lord was pleased to give us a peculiarly good season. The subject was taken from *1 Peter*, ch. i. ver. 3, 4, 5. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.*—The affection of the people was very remarkable on my coming down from the pulpit, and very many happy in this time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; declaring he had kept the best wine until now.—*Tuesday, July*

July 10, we breakfasted at Mr. H.'s, and on our return from his house, marvelously escaped with our lives; for instantly after we passed by a gentleman's house, a great quantity of lead fell from the top of it into the street, that must have crushed us to death; but our gracious Protector wonderfully preserved us. Never-ceasing praise to his adorable name!—We set out about eleven o'clock for *Penryn*, where we put up at Mrs. B.'s, and were most cordially received.—I had intended to preach on the Bowling-green, but the Mayorefs of the town having offered the Town-hall, in the most pressing and obliging manner, and it being likely to prove a wet evening, I thankfully accepted it. She kindly conducted me and my party to the hall, which was instantly filled. Many were observed to be in tears under the word. The text was, *Rom. ch. x. ver. 3, 4. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*—There appeared a great power from on high among the people, at the latter end of the discourse. Many blessed God that they were there. There were also some ministers of various denominations present. A young man who used to be remarkably bitter, and frequently disturbed the religious meetings, was deeply affected under the word, turned

turned pale, and wept greatly: the whole evening after, floods of tears fell from his eyes, whilst he exclaimed against his past conduct, and prayed God that he might be more mindful of his poor soul, and diligent in all the means of grace in future. — *Wednesday 11*, we had the most pressing invitation from the Mayor to breakfast with him, which we accepted of, and were received in the most polite manner, and requested earnestly to repeat our visit there, if possible; but this I was obliged to decline. We dined at *Falmouth* with Mr. L. Mr. *W—e*, a gracious Dissenting Minister, was with us. At seven in the evening I preached in the *New-street* to a very large congregation, on *Matt. ch. vi. ver. 33. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*—There was a general deep attention; at last some soldiers also, that were careless under the former part of the sermon, appeared much affected. May the Lord fasten a deep impression upon their hearts! — *Thursday 12*, we went to *Helstone*; some *Falmouth* friends, as well as Mr. *P.* of *Truro*, accompanied us. Upon application for the Town-hall, the Mayor very politely gave permission, and himself and other gentlemen attended there before the time appointed for preaching: but when I went to the hall, the croud was so immensely great, and the thronging so violent, that many women screamed aloud, and I was obliged to give notice, that

I would

I would go out and preach in the street. Instantly there was a great quietness, and the whole congregation rejoiced. A gentleman, whom I knew, was uncommonly civil, and took me to another gentleman's door, followed by the people; where I preached from the steps, the people standing in a very spacious street, to the number, I suppose, of three or four thousand, besides the gentry of the town who were in the houses. The text was taken from *Rev. iii. and 20. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and be with me.* — Many were affected under the word. After preaching, three or four came to me requesting help to be sent to them; and indeed I know no place that more needs it. The town being one of the largest in the county; the adjacent villages very populous; the public service so shamefully neglected, that they expect soon to have only a Sermon once a month, and the people thirsting for the gospel. I have, for the present, engaged that they shall have preaching once a fortnight, and must intreat you, dear Madam, to send another student soon, and then it may be oftener. — *Friday 13*, I went to *Marazion*, where there has been no preaching in the street, and the people in total darkness. I intended to preach on a horse-block at the Inn-door, there being a spacious opening before the house; but the proprietor of the land (who, I hear, is since dead)

dead) sent me word I should not preach on his ground : so we moved a few yards farther, and had leave of a Lady to preach at her door, the other side of the way, and all was remarkably still. — Some appeared to be broken down under the discourse, which was taken from *Jonah* i. ver. 6. *What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, and call upon thy God.* — The subject was particularly addressed to three sorts of sleepers ; The profligate sinner, the sober worldling, and the formal professor. My heart was enlarged towards them ; and I trust the seed was not sown in vain. We went on after preaching to *Penzance*, where we were kindly received by a Quaker, a friend of Mr. P.'s. — *Saturday* 14. We went on to Mr. P.'s country-house at *Boskenna*, where I was much indisposed. It was very providential I had not been given out for preaching that evening, as I do not think I could have attempted it ; so I went to bed in good season, and had tolerable rest. — The Lord thus recruited my strength for the service of the next day. — *Sunday* 15, about 12 o'clock, I went to *Burian*, to preach as soon as the congregation should be dismissed from the church, and immediately stood on an horse-block adjoining to the church-wall, and spoke from *Matt. v. ver. 20. Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.* Many *Amens* were put up
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in the prayer, and the people heard with much attention. Great numbers, through a mistake, had understood, that I was not to preach till the afternoon, and coming from a considerable distance were disappointed, for I was obliged to set out, as soon as we had taken some refreshment, to *St. Just*, about six miles further; where I preached again from a horse-block to a very large congregation, which put me in mind of our *Welsh* hearers, for numbers, earnestness, and plainness of apparel. Here I spoke to them on the gospel-supper, *Luke*, ch. xiv. ver. 16, 17. *Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper-time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.*—The Lord favoured us with his presence. The apparently careless among them seemed afraid to say, *I pray thee have me excused*, whilst others discovered a joy that high-way-sinners were invited, yea, compelled, to come in. Nothing could exceed the cordiality of some old and infirm professors there; and, from what they expressed, they had a feast for their souls, provided by our Great Master, that evening. We returned to Mr. P.'s in safety; and though I was much fatigued in body, I felt refreshed in spirit after this day's-work was over. Hitherto the Lord has helped us. Glory be to his great name! — The servant is waiting to carry this letter

letter to the post.—Continue your prayers for us, dear MADAM, and believe me to be ever

YOUR LADYSHIP'S

Boskenna,
July 16, 1781.

Dutiful and affectionate Servant,

T. W.

I HOPE the last part of our Diary has reached your Ladyship's hands, which I brought down to last *Sunday* se'ennight in the evening. — *Monday, July 16*, I preached at a fishing-town near *Penzance*, called *Newlyn*, where, I suppose, there were not less than five-and-twenty hundred people assembled at the Inn-door. The appearance of the place, the people, and the boats, put me strongly in mind of our Lord's excursions on the sea-coast, and these words were given me for a text. *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him*, Matt. ch. iv. ver. 21, 22.—The Lord, I trust, was with us here also, and I found in my own soul peculiar liberty. The poor people seemed to eat the word, whilst many old professors, from neighbouring parts, put up many hearty *Amens*.—*Tuesday, July 17*, I preached at *Penzance*, one of the prettiest towns,

towns, and containing some of the genteelest inhabitants in this part of the county. Here I had a spacious part of the town to preach in, and a commodious horse-block to stand upon; the whole place was quite crowded, and the houses that surrounded it were filled with some gentry, and many others. It was supposed there were not less than four thousand assembled, and all gave the greatest attention. The subject was the Prodigal Son. We had good news the next morning of some of the most hardened sinners being much concerned and broken down under the word: and, what was remarkable, Mr. *W.*'s people and the Dissenters here put off their stated meetings to attend my ministry in this and the neighbouring places; and all seemed to vie with each other in kindness and respect to the poor pilgrims. Here a gentleman of large fortune, one of my old acquaintance, and cotemporary at *Oxford*, attended the preaching, and after Sermon favoured me with a kind visit. He was observed to hear with the greatest attention. Here also I heard of an old school-fellow, that after a life of continued drunkenness, died very lately in the greatest agony of mind and deepest despair; and, by what I hear, had nobody to speak to him about the Balm of Gilead, and the Physician there. Before I left the town, I called upon an old *Simeon*, fourscore and nine years of age, whose eyes have seen the Salvation of God, and who is now every hour waiting for his
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approaching change. — *Wednesday* the 18th, we went to *St. Ives*, a populous sea-faring town on the north coast of this country; I preached near the market-place, at the corner of a house that commanded two streets. These streets, with the market-house and all the private houses adjoining, were quite crowded. There were some thousands assembled; many gentry of the town and neighbourhood were present; multitudes of people also from the parishes around; and all heard with great solemnity. The subject was taken from *Rom. ch. iii. ver. 19, 20, 21.* *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets.* — Some clergy being present, and many of Mr. *W—y's* people, I was led to state the doctrines of the total apostacy and helplessness of man by nature, and the only way of justification by the righteousness of God our Saviour. The minister of the town heard me, and professed himself very happy at the opportunity. He sent a message the next morning inviting me to dinner; but, being pre-engaged, I went to pay him a morning visit; he was not at home, but came to me afterwards, ex-

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pressing his thanks for the last night's sermon ;
 and begged I would make his house my home
 when I came again. He afterwards sent me
 a message by a lady that his pulpit would be
 always at my service ; saying, that if Mr.
Wills knew no reason for declining it, he
 knew none for refusing it. The people were
 very pressing for me to come again before I
 left the country ; but the various engagements
 and shortness of my stay rendered it impossi-
 ble. Several of the inhabitants followed us,
 indeed we are generally attended here from
 place to place, as in *Wales*. I heard a re-
 markable anecdote of a clergyman, who, about
 a fortnight ago, burst into tears in the pulpit,
 and said, " he could not cry aloud, and lift
 up his voice like a trumpet ; he still found he
 was under the power of the carnal mind,
 which was enmity against God," &c.—*Thurs-*
day 19, I preached at a large *Tin-parish*, very
 populous, about ten miles from *St. Ives*, call-
 ed *Camborn*. Here I stood on a table near the
 Inn-door : some thousands assembled. And it
 being a very careless and drunken parish, just
 as I was going to give out another text, these
 words were given to me, 1 Cor. ch. vi. ver. 9,
 10, 11. *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall*
not inherit the kingdom of God, &c.—All was
 very solemn, and many much affected, parti-
 cularly some of the drunkards ; so that our
 friends and myself had great hopes that con-
 viction reached some sinners hearts.—*Friday*
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the 20th, being Market-day at Redruth, I preached on the market-house stairs again, which is in the middle of the principal street; the congregation not less, I suppose, than five thousand, most of them hearing as for life. The text was taken from *Acts*, ch. xii. ver. 7. *Behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell from off his hands.*—Saturday the 21st, I preached at Per-ran, a parish in the neighbourhood of St. Agnes: the congregation was large for that place, and met on a common. I humbly hope there was some stirring among the dry bones, whilst I was preaching from these words, *Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life*, Eph. ch. v. ver. 14. I trust I left none of them unwarn-ed, whatever the state of their souls might be; and I found much earnestness in my own heart on their behalf, especially toward the sleeping professors and backsliders. — On Sunday morning, the 22d, I had the affecting scene once more to go through, the taking a farewell of my poor people at St. Agnes; the congregation the largest of any we have had here, covering a great space of ground on the high road and common near the chapel. I preached from *Acts*, ch. xx. ver. 32. *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace,*

which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. — The poor people, in general, were melted into tears, especially at the thought of parting; but they seemed somewhat comforted at the prospect of our meeting again, if it be the Lord's will, in the course of two or three years; and with the expectation of an annual summer's visit from one of our principal Ministers. — In the afternoon we went to *Bosveal* again, and found a large multitude assembled from almost all the towns, and most of the principal parishes within thirty miles of the western parts of *Cornwall*, where I had preached during this tour. It was the largest congregation I had ever beheld, and judged by every one to be above twelve thousand. An universal solemnity and awe sat on every countenance, and the Lord was in the midst of us. Even the people of the world were reminded of the judgment-day, from beholding this innumerable and deeply affected multitude. Gospel preachers, with their congregations, from many miles round, attended on this occasion. The subject was taken from *Matt. ch. xi. ver. 4, 5. Go and shew John again these things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* — Though I had a great cold and hoarseness some part of the day, yet my voice
 was

was clear throughout the whole sermon, and I was heard distinctly by the most distant people that filled and surrounded the pit, near your Ladyship's chapel, which you may remember I preached in a fortnight ago. All was as still, (notwithstanding the immense number assembled) throughout the whole service, as if there had been but ten persons present. The people say, there had never been such a large company assembled there on any former occasion. An old man, in the name of many others, earnestly intreated that they might have more constant and frequent preaching in *Gwenep*, from the students than has hitherto been, and I promised they should be more constantly attended to. Here also a gospel preacher, Mr. C. of G. applied to me in the names of some of the principal people of his neighbouring parish of *Probus*, to come and preach to them. One of the persons had, but a few days before, hired men to ring the church bells: this ringing was to drown the speaker's voice, who had attempted, for the first time, (to which I earnestly encouraged him, when he consulted me on the occasion) to preach among them. This very person that had hired the mob was so struck with the preaching of Mr. W. that he not only desisted from rudeness, but was constrained, with another principal person, to join in requesting me to come to them. The call appearing to me from the Lord, I immediately determined

to go, and fixed on the *Friday* following, when I expected to be in those parts. On *Sunday* evening our good Shepherd and Protector carried us back safe to Mr. N.'s at *Mithian*, but partly through a cold contracted two days before, and partly through great fatigue, I was so feverish in the night that I had but little sleep, and was confined the next day, and part of *Tuesday*, to my bed. I was hereby prevented from taking leave of the men of our society on the *Monday*, as I had given notice; and obliged to appoint them, with the women, for the *Tuesday* evening. This, though with great bodily weakness, I was carried through; and my dear people and I then took a most affecting leave of each other, having settled at the same time a plan for the regulation of our outward matters here, and appointed a committee, &c. to general satisfaction. — *Wednesday* the 25th, we departed from *Mithian*, which had been our headquarters during our stay in *St. Agnes*, and where we had been received and entertained most cordially and politely by our friends, Mr. and Mrs. N. who both studied to do every thing in their power to shew their affection and respect to us and to some of our friends that visited us there. This day we passed through *Truro*, and proceeded to the town of *Tregony*. In consequence of a great annual fair held here at this time, I had ordered myself to be given out for preaching on the occasion. Indisposed as I was,
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the Lord strengthened me, and at seven o'clock in the evening I preached in a field close adjoining to the principal street, where the fair was held. There was very soon a large number assembled, who heard with great attention, and many (I hear this morning) were dissolved in tears, and the effect of the preaching was very visible on many of the countenances of the better sort (as they are called) of the town. It being fair-day, and that chiefly of oxen, I preached from *Luke*, ch. xiv. ver. 19. *And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.*—Our friend Mr. S. and many others from *Truro*, attended us, and mean to accompany us to the preaching at *Gerrans* this afternoon, and *Probus* to-morrow. Indeed, no one can shew a more catholic spirit than this faithful minister does. There was also the Rector of a neighbouring parish, an old acquaintance, stood near me the whole time of preaching; and being better affected toward the truth than the generality of the clergy, was very glad to see me. The principal people also of *Mevagessey*, who had used every means by friends and letters to prevail on me to come to them, came hither, and so importunately entreated me to give them a sermon, that I could not refuse, as I thought the Lord might have some work for me there: so I have fixed on *Sunday* morning for them, and the evening

for a large market town, called *St. Austle*, about six miles from thence. Thus I have continued our Journal to this day, which should have been sent regularly by the last post, had I not been prevented by illness.

Ever your LADYSHIP's dutiful

And affectionate Servant,

Tregony,
July 26, 1781.

T. W.

T *Hursday, July the 26th*, I went to *Gerrans*, a parish on the sea-coast, abounding with fishermen, several of whose inhabitants the Lord was pleased to make me useful to some years ago, where I then established a public meeting for prayer and occasional preaching. The court where I was to preach was not half large enough to hold the people, so I went out into the high road near the sea-side, and preached on the Parable of the Sower, *Matt. ch. xiii.* I found my heart much enlarged towards the poor people; there was a most solemn and universal attention among them, with a visible effect on a great number; insomuch, that when the sermon was over, many testified to each other the Lord's gracious presence amongst us, and that they had great cause to bless his holy name for this opportunity. This parish being in the neighbourhood of two or three country houses
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of some of my relations, it was thought more assembled on that account, as I was particularly known in those parts. The Lord grant the seed sown this day amongst them may bring forth an hundred fold! — *Friday*, the 27th, I went to *Probus*, a large village, commonly called in our country the Church Town, famous for not admitting any itinerant preacher; nor had any one ever attempted it for many years, till a fortnight ago Mr. *W.* preached there, amidst ringing of bells, drum-beating, &c. I determined, however, to take the field here; and accordingly, accompanied by a principal person of the parish, I mounted a table on the *Bowling-green*; a spot that for years immemorial had afforded an annual scene of wrestling and fighting for the most riotous persons of that parish, and the adjacent parts. We had a very large concourse of people here, particularly many from *Truro*; the text was, *Numbers*, ch. xxi. ver. 9. *And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*—There was the greatest stillness among the people, and I was told afterwards by some, that they found it a refreshing season to their souls; I cannot say but my own was dry, like *Gideon's* fleece, whilst others were favoured with the heavenly dew. The Vicar of the parish, who has long resided there, from whom some had expected opposition, was present the whole

whole time, stood with his hat off amidst the people, and behaved in every other respect in a very becoming manner, nay even sent a person to keep some little children quiet at a distance, and had spoke of me the day before with great respect. In the conclusion of the discourse I took occasion to prove the doctrines I advanced to be no other than those of the Church of *England*. On my return from this place, I found a letter from my friend Mr. P. of *Boskenna*, in which, among other things, he gave me an account of a drunken man that had received impressions under my preaching at *Newlyn*, in that neighbourhood; he had been before visited with sickness, was recovered, and desirous to hear the word. The Lord make it effectual to his soul's conversion! — *Saturday* the 28th, I preached at the Meeting at *Tregony*, by desire, at ten o'clock in the morning; and though it was Market-day, the room was quite full, as well as the gallery; and many professors being present, I was particularly drawn out to speak to them, and found my own soul very comfortable, while I spoke from these words, *Ezek. ch. xlv. ver. 10. And the Prince in the midst of them, when they go in, shall go in; and when they go forth, shall go forth.*—It was a good time to many of us, and the careless ones seemed much affected at hearing the dreadful issue of going forth out of the world without this Prince,

Prince, &c. Here I met again a spiritual child from a neighbouring parish, whose conversation with the M——r was a little curious. This poor man had, of his own accord, very innocently asked for the church for me to preach in. No, the M——r said, Mr. *Wills* had left the church, and the Bishop would be very angry if he suffered any such thing.—Besides, what is Mr. *Wills*, said he, more than any other body? — Why, Sir, he preaches extempore, &c.—Extempore! why any body can preach extempore. — No, Parson, *you* can't preach extempore; but I would have you come down and hear him preach in my court, as you will not let him preach in the church.—No, the Bishop would hear of it if he did, and so they parted.—

Having preached this morning at *Tregony*, I went in the evening to *Mevagessey*, Mr. *S.* a principal professor there, came to conduct us. —The next morning, *Sunday* the 29th, it being wet, I preached at nine o'clock to a crouded audience in the Meeting; larger, they say, than had ever been seen before there on any occasion. Mr. *W—y's* people had given up their preaching, which used to be at the same hour, to attend me: great numbers also of the church-people, and many of the principal inhabitants were there. The subject was *Jabez's Prayer*, 1 *Chron.* iv. 10. *Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge*
my

my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me. And God granted him that which he requested. — I saw many in tears, and trust this labour was not in vain in the Lord.—In the afternoon, after visiting a sick person, we set off for *St. Austle*, a market town about six miles distant, where I was very kindly received at the house of Mr. *F.* a principal tradesman in this town, and a preacher among Mr. *J. W.*'s people. I had not expected a very large congregation, it not being so populous hereabouts as in the *Tin-parishes*; and as I was but little known, and the inhabitants in general being *Gallios*, caring for none of these things, except a few of Mr. *W.*'s people. However, at half an hour after five, I preached near the Market-house, in a convenient angle where two streets meet, and, to my great surprize, found no less than three thousand, it was supposed, assembled, who had flocked in from the country round, as well as the inhabitants; many also of the genteelest part of the town were there, and behaved remarkably well; some were greatly affected under the discourse, which was taken from *Gal. ch. vi. ver. 15. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*—Whilst the necessity of this new birth was insisted on, the solemnity of the whole audience was very striking; nor did I perceive one smile during the

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the whole time.—*Monday* the 30th, preached at *Grampound*, to nearly as large a congregation as yesterday at *St. Austle*. The people appeared generally impressed under the word, and I think greater attention there could not be; especially, it was the more solemn season to many who came from different parts to hear me for the last time in this part of *Cornwall*. The subject was taken from *Isaiah*, ch. liii. ver. 11. *By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many*.—This doctrine I thought peculiarly necessary to state as clearly, and insist on as strongly as I could, many being I believe there, who were much confused on this fundamental subject. The word had free course amongst them; and it was to many a solemn and (as they said) a sweet and profitable season.—It was very affecting to take leave of many weeping Christian friends; but we are now in such a pilgrim-state, that we are more or less exercised this way almost every day.—*Tuesday* the 31st, being to set off in the morning from *Tregony*, where I had pitched my tent at my dear friend Mr. P.'s house, for a few days, so as to go to the neighbouring towns in the day, and return at night; and having preached there twice, and being to preach in the evening, I wished to hear our friend Mr. S. in the Meeting, who gave us, at my request, a very useful and faithful sermon, and very kindly prayed for a blessing on my further labours, &c. and
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about eleven o'clock we set out for *St. Austle*, dined there, and proceeded in the evening for *Loftwithiel*, where I preached in the street, at half an hour after six. There were about five hundred assembled; and among them some of the neighbouring gentry and clergy, as well as some of the principal inhabitants. The text was, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*, Mark, ch. xvi. ver. 15.—I endeavoured to speak very plainly and faithfully. It threatened rain, and indeed there was a little at the beginning, but it soon ceased, and the people did not regard it. It was observable that many came with a very trifling and sneering countenance, but it was soon altered, and all was very solemn indeed; and the congregation was both more numerous and better behaved than I or my friends expected; many particularly were much struck, when I related an account of two sudden deaths within a few days; one, a lady who paid a visit at *Truro* on *Thursday* morning, and before night died in the midst of the company: the other, the master of a vessel, who put to sea in the morning on *Sunday*, and before noon was brought home a dead corpse!—*Wednesday, August 1*, preached at *Leskard*, on the *Castle-green*, to about four hundred, many of whom came from the neighbouring country parishes; the inhabitants, in
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general, being like *Gallio*, caring for none of these things. The congregation was upon the whole very attentive; some gentry stood at a little distance, part of whom staid the whole time. There were some Latin school-boys, sixteen or seventeen years of age, who discovered great enmity against the truth; standing at a little distance sneering and scoffing, and even when I reproved them, appeared hardened to a great degree, and smiled with great contempt. The word, however, was received by some with solemn delight, whilst I invited sinners to come to *Jesus* from these words: *This man receiveth sinners, Luke, ch. xv. v. 2.* A very lively and hearty man, that has been called between thirty and forty years, one Mr. H. of *Landagard*, three miles west of *Leskard*, came to me, and gave me an hearty invitation to his house; his daughter also, Mrs. H. of *Looe*, who was called under Sir H. T. hearing I was to preach at *Leskard*, set out on foot, though it was eight miles distant, not being able to get an horse, and came at a quarter of an hour's warning, and after preaching importuned me, almost irresistibly, in the name of the poor deserted flock that were members of Sir H's meeting, to come and give them a sermon; but as all my time was laid out for other places, till I came to *Plymouth*, I was obliged to decline it. However, on the next day, her father,

father followed me to *Callington*, again earnestly renewed his solicitations about preaching at *Looe*; told me his daughter went home last night with an heavy heart, and bid him tell me she had not half fulfilled her errand, as she had not prevailed on me to go thither; and that the Mayor of *Looe* had heard me in the west of *Cornwall*, and said I should be welcome to preach in any part of that Borough, that I pleased. In short, putting all these things together, considering them as sheep without a shepherd, and finding it was but sixteen miles from *Plymouth*, though it was so far going back again, I felt such a call from the Lord, that I durst hold out no longer, but consented to return next *Wednesday* from *Plymouth*, and preach there, by the Lord's leave, that evening. Mr. K.'s brother, being the Inn-keeper at *Callington*, another borough town in this county, offered me the horse-block at his door to preach on; but as they are a very hardened set of people here, and have no preaching out of the church, he offered also a field behind the house, judging we should have more quietness there; nevertheless on walking into the town, I saw a square place at the head of the street, near the Mayor's door, that would hold a great number, and fixed upon that spot. Here I stood on a chair; at first there were but a few Methodists from the country, a very few of

of the inhabitants and children, but soon after there were about two hundred or more assembled : the text was taken from *Mark*, ch. i. ver. 15. *Repent ye, and believe the gospel.* I trust the Lord was at work with some.

I am, Dear MADAM,

Callington,
August 2, 1781.

Your LADYSHIP'S

Dutiful and affectionate Servant,

T. W.

Hitherto the Lord hath helped us, and carried us on safely and comfortably from day to day, and from place to place. The last part of our Journal ended with *Thursday* night's preaching at *Callington*. — On *Friday, August 3*, we set out for *Tavistock*, in *Devonshire*, where we dined at an Inn. In the afternoon two or three friends came to us ; but finding it was market-day, it was not convenient to preach in the street, on account of a number of horses and carts passing and repassing ; I therefore sent to desire the use of a very large market-chamber, which is supposed to hold, at least, a thousand people ; this being granted, I went and preached to a large and attentive congregation on these words : *Hear, ye deaf ; and look, ye blind, Isaiah*, ch. xlii. ver. 18. There appeared to be an

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impression wrought on many, particularly a gentleman who was observed to hear with great eagerness, and was heard to say after it was over, That whoever pretends to believe the Bible, and does not acknowledge what he has now heard to be the truth, is a fool. I saw several of the poorer sort also weeping. The next morning, *Saturday* the 4th, at the pressing solicitations of a few serious persons, I met them in the Meeting-room at eight o'clock, and gave them an exhortation from the first verse of the 23d Psalm, *The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.* This I found a comfortable season to my own soul, and to all that were there. Many were melted down under the sense of the infinite love and faithful care of our gracious and all-sufficient Shepherd, and seemed to anticipate the happiness they should one day enjoy in beholding his face, and sounding his praise for ever. We took an early dinner with a very gracious couple, Mr. and Mrs. B. who earnestly intreat your Ladyship to permit the Students in going to and from *Cornwall*, to take *Tavistock* in the way. In the afternoon, at two o'clock, we set out for *Plymouth*, accompanied by Mr. B. and arrived about six in the evening, where we were met at the house of a gracious man, Mr. S. by several friends, who congratulated us, and were very happy at our arrival there. After tea I walked out with them to a large Common, called the

Hoe

Hoe (near the garrison) which is the rendezvous, or the *Mall* of the *Plymouth*-gentry, and all sorts on *Sundays*, and where Mr. *Whitefield* had formerly preached; but there has no such use been made of the *Hoe* since his time. There I pitched upon a proper spot for the next evening's preaching, close by a stone pillar that was fixed in the ground, and earnestly prayed the place might prove a *Bethel* to many souls the next day. On *Sunday* morning the 5th, at the earnest and repeated request, by messages and letters, from the Rev. Mr. K. I preached in his Tabernacle, at the *Dock*, to a very crowded congregation, on *Isaiah*, ch. xxxii. ver. 17. *And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.* In the discourse I was led to insist on the Redeemer's righteousness as the alone ground of a sinner's justification—and on the nature and necessity of assurance. — I heard Mr. K. early in the afternoon, when he added his testimony to the morning's subject, and prayed very earnestly for a blessing on my labours. He then ordered both the Tabernacles to be shut up for the evening at *Plymouth* and *Dock*, that all the people might go to the *Hoe*, where I arrived at six o'clock. Indeed, the fields were now white unto harvest! It would have rejoiced your Ladyship's heart to behold the innumerable concourse;

it was such a multitude that none of us, or our friends had ever beheld before on any occasion ; they were computed variously up to twenty thousand : for my own part, I can form no conjecture. I went out somewhat hoarse, but, blessed be God, it was hardly perceived by any ; and, I was told, my voice reached to all. The text was, *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, Heb. ch. ii. ver. 3.* I found myself much drawn out to the alarming of sinners, many of whom were particularly struck with the recital of two or three anecdotes. There was such a thirst for hearing, that they most earnestly entreated my stay over the next Sabbath-day ; but as that could not be, I consented to preach once more at each place, *Plymouth* and *Dock* ; especially as some had said they had for some time made it a matter of prayer for a revival of the Lord's work with power, and now they hoped it was come. On *Monday* the 6th, at seven o'clock in the evening, I preached at the Tabernacle in *Plymouth*, which was said to be more crowded than ever it had been known before on any occasion. I found it a very good season to my own soul ; and though the fatigue of the day before, and restlessness the whole night, seemed to be too much for my body to bear, it pleased our Lord so to fulfil his promise, *As thy day is, so shall thy strength be* ; that all my weakness seemed to be left at the bottom of the pulpit-stairs.

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The subject was taken from *Psalms* lxxviii. ver. 18. *Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.* The enlargement on the word *rebellious*, I trust, was accompanied with peculiar unction to many, from what I was told the next day. Ministers of various denominations, and the people, seemed very happy at what they called *a revival of old times*, when field-preaching was not so much out of fashion as at present. Having engaged to go to Sir H. T.'s deserted people on *Wednesday*, and as I must return by way of *Plymouth* on *Thursday*, the people knowing this, I was besieged, before I came out of the pulpit, to promise another sermon on the *Thursday*. Seeing such eagerness in the people, and conscious of the special presence of God amongst us this evening, I consented; especially, as I knew I could go no farther than *Plymouth* on that day. *Tuesday, August the 7th*, I preached again, according to promise, at the *Dock*, when the Tabernacle was fuller, if possible, than on *Sunday*. The text was taken from *Psalms* lxxxix. ver. 15, 16. *Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.* Mr. K. came to the pulpit-door, and earnestly entreated my staying over *Sun-*

day ; but I could by no means consent to it ; he then begged for another week-day, neither could I yield to that ; he then said as I was to preach at *Plymouth* on *Thursday*, he would shut up the *Dock-Tabernacle* that evening, to give the *Dock* people an opportunity of attending.—*Wednesday* the 8th, we set off for *Looe*, accompanied by some of our friends from *Plymouth*, and having a passage to cross, together with a bad road, it took us as much time as twice the distance on a better road ; however, it pleased God to bring us there in safety, and about seven o'clock I preached on a *Bowling-green*, very near Sir *H.*'s late Meeting-house, which he has now sold for a malt-house.—The text that appeared most suitable on this occasion, as many had been so grieved, and others questioned the truths he had preached, was from these words : *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity, 2 Tim. ch. ii. ver. 19.* From hence I endeavoured to shew, *that the foundation of God standeth sure*, notwithstanding the awful apostacy of Ministers, making particular application to them throughout the whole. Many of the poor serious people were very solemnly affected ; and it was, I find, universally a word in season, and drank in as a shower of rain on a thirsty land. The Lord enabled me, as I desired, to bear a faithful testimony in *this* place ; nor
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do I in the least regret the going twenty miles back again into *Cornwall* to have this opportunity. *Thursday* the 9th, we set out between eight and nine in the morning, but did not reach *Plymouth* to dine, till past four in the afternoon. According to promise, the same evening I preached, for the last time at *Plymouth*, to a very crowded congregation in the Tabernacle, from these words: *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the World, or Life, or Death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's,* 1 Cor. ch. iii. ver. 21, 22, 23. It was, I have been told, a good season to very many, and I have just now particularly heard of a very careless person, that never used to go to any place of worship, crying all night and the next day at what she heard, and seemed under great conviction; the Lord grant it may issue in conversion!—*Friday* the 10th, we set off for *Modbury*, a town about fifteen miles from *Plymouth*, where there is no Gospel; but being taken very ill the night before, and continuing so on the road, by the time I reached *Modbury*, I seemed very unfit for preaching. However, though I could not attempt it out of doors, I went to a room that a very few serious people meet in, which was soon filled with all sorts, *Arians*, *Armianians*, and people of no religion at all; and

therefore thought it necessary to speak to them simply of the great leading truths of the gospel, from *Rom. ch. v. ver. 21. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*—Some were much affected. One of the greatest persecutors in the town was also there, but the Lion was astonishingly changed into the Lamb. I am just favoured with your Ladyship's letter, but my present indisposition, and the post going out, prevent my answering it by this post.

I am, dear MADAM,

Your most affectionate

*Kingsbridge,
Aug. 12, 1781.*

and dutiful Servant,

T. W.

My dear MADAM!

I HOPE your Ladyship will pardon receiving the continuation of our Journal a post later than you ought to have done, as I have been so much out of order for this week past as to have made writing quite a burden to me. Through mercy, I am now much better.—*Sunday, August the 12th*, having been much indisposed at *Modbury*, where I was obliged to lie by at the Inn on *Saturday*, and not able to undertake preaching this morning, we set off about

about nine o'clock for *King'sbridge*, where I had appointed to preach both parts of the day; but now could only attempt to give them a sermon in the evening: this was to have been out of doors, but rain coming on prevented it, and obliged me to accept Mr. *E.*'s Meeting-house, which is a large one, and was compleatly filled. The text I preached from was taken from the Second Book of *Kings*, ch. xxv. ver. 27, 28, 29, 30. *And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin King of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evil-Merodach King of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin King of Judah out of prison; and he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon; and changed his prison-garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life. And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.*—Where occasion was taken to shew that man was by nature in worse than *Babylonish* captivity: that the deliverance of a sinner was often so remarkably striking, that the year and month were easily remembered; that free-grace alone made the difference between one captive and others; what was meant by the King of Kings speaking kindly to such; wherein consisted the change of our prison-gar-

garments, together with the provision daily made for believers at free cost. I found my soul much enlarged, but my body, after sermon, much fatigued. — *Monday, August* the 13th, we went to *Totness*, and I had fully intended to preach there that evening; but when we arrived finding myself much indisposed, and not having been given out for preaching, nor knowing any person in the whole town, I lay by that afternoon at the Inn. This circumstance was very providential, as next morning a violent rash broke out all over my body, which still continues; it has been a great relief to my spirits, and probably the means of preserving me from a violent fever, which there was much reason, before its appearance, to expect was coming upon me; and which, had it been checked by preaching out of doors that evening, might have been of very dangerous consequence, or, at least, have disabled me from preaching for some time. However, keeping myself warm, I proceeded, *Tuesday, August* the 14th, to *Ashburton*, where, as it was Fair-day, I preached in a large Meeting-house on the very ground that Mr. *Flavel* preached his last sermon. There are some precious souls here that know the Lord, who fed heartily on the word: the text was, *Prov. ch. xvii. ver. 17. A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*—Many testified thankfully that our friend and brother was then present. The
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next day, we went on to *Ide*, near *Exeter*, where my dear friend Mr. *H—s* has a country-house; and from thence proceeded, on *Thursday* the 16th, to *Tiverton*, where I preached in his large new Meeting, lately a *Play-house*, which was well filled. There were four or five Ministers of different denominations present, and the congregation was very attentive: some appeared to be in tears. The text was taken from *Gal. iii. ver. 10, 11, 12, 13.* *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But, that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.* — The next morning, we had the pleasure to hear that some were refreshed and edified, particularly one who said he had never before heard the way of salvation so clearly laid before him; that he was fully convinced this was *the way*; whereupon we were comforted that our coming here was not in vain. This evening I went to *Exmouth*, a sea-bathing place, about twenty-eight miles from *Tiverton*, and preached there. The text was taken from *Luke, ch. xxiv. ver.*

ver. 45. 46. 47. 48. *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*—

Some scoffers were observed to be more serious than we expected, and many people came to me, after preaching, to thank me for this service. A dignified clergyman came within the door a little before the conclusion of the sermon, stayed till the prayer was over, and told a Minister he recollected me at *Oxford*, and was sorry he was not there sooner, which he had intended, but was prevented.—*Saturday, August the 18th*, we returned to *Exeter*, and I preached that evening at the Tabernacle, where Mr. T. preaches; there were some Ministers present, and particularly a noted *Arian*. The subject was taken from *Psalms* xxix. ver. 11. *The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.*

—Our Lord gave me utterance. I found it was a comfortable season to others; but it was not altogether such to my own soul. I desired simply to be faithful, notwithstanding I supposed there were gain-sayers; and, I bless God, I had nothing to reproach myself with for declining to speak explicitly of those great truths that I was well aware would not be relished

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by some that heard me.—*Sunday, August the 19th*, having been kindly offered a pulpit by a sound Minister among the Baptists, Mr. F. I determined to accept this offer in the morning; and to preach in the open air, if the weather permitted, in the evening, at a place of rendezvous for public walking in summertime, on one side of the city, called *Southern-bay*. This was objected to by most, as it was expected there would be much rioting and persecution; but I was not moved by any of their arguments or fears; determining, if the Lord pleased, to venture in his name. I was accordingly given out, after morning service, for the out-of-door preaching in the evening. The congregation at the Baptist Meeting was very large, I found great liberty in bearing testimony against formality, whether in the Established Church, or out of it; and maintaining the necessity of a personal interest in the alone and all-sufficient righteousness of Christ. The text was, *Rom. ch. x. ver. 3, 4. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.* — I was pressed very much in the vestry by the Minister, Deacons, and principal Members, to preach there again in the evening: but I refused, unless the weather proved rainy, which now seemed to be likely,

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as we had already some showers and thunder. Mr. H.'s Coachman, I found afterwards, was much impressed under this sermon. After we returned from Meeting, it rained very fast, and continued to rain, more or less, till the time appointed for preaching, which was six o'clock; when it was absolutely necessary to adjourn to the Meeting. I know nothing but this circumstance would have prevented my attempting to preach in the open air in such a populous city this evening, so much was my mind set upon it; but when I found it could not be, I felt no murmuring; and yet, wet as it was, I was told afterwards that many had assembled and sheltered themselves under the trees, in expectation of preaching, and umbrellas were there in great abundance. However, we drove to the Meeting, which, though it is large, and full of galleries, we found so crowded, that it was with great difficulty I could get to the pulpit, and many were obliged to go away for want of room; yet, notwithstanding the violent pressing of the people, immediately on the beginning of the service all was still and solemn; the Court as well as the Meeting was very full, notwithstanding the rain. My soul was drawn out to careless sinners, under these words: *This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found*; from the Parable of the Prodigal Son, *Luke xv.*—The word seemed to go with power, and though I had been ill in the
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morning, and then felt myself very much indisposed, I found such new strength given me on this occasion, that after preaching an hour and an half, I could with pleasure have preached another hour, but for the sake of the people, who were standing all this time.—Blessed be God! many, that caught hold of my hand as I was going out, could not refrain from telling me briefly, that they had been *lost, and were found*, &c.—*Monday* the 20th, I went to *Crediton*, having sent word before, that I intended preaching out of doors, if the weather would permit; otherwise, should accept of a Meeting that was offered me by Mr. *W.* a young Dissenting Minister there.—When I came to the town, it was judged most advisable, on account of the enmity and riotous disposition of the mob, to preach in the Meeting; but, to my great concern, we had not above seventy people, and some of those came out of the country to hear. However, I took the opportunity of preaching Jesus to a few, and spoke from these words: *I am the way, and the truth, and the life*, John, ch. xiv. ver. 6.—I had only this to comfort me, that there might be some or other of God's people present that I was sent to minister food unto that evening; or some poor Pharisee, to whom the alone way of salvation was to be explained; if either end was answered, I shall not repent of going even to *Crediton*; but I think, if I should go thither again, I shall
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certainly attempt preaching out of doors, as the only way of attracting the multitude there. — *Tuesday, August the 21st.* My present indisposition made it expedient for me to lie by at Mr. H.'s, where I took some medicines, and proceeded, on *Wednesday the 22d,* to *Honiton*; Mr. H. having sent a letter to Mr. S. a Dissenting Minister there, to apprise him of my coming; but on my arrival, in the afternoon, I found that proper notice had not been given, the Minister saying, He did not know at what hour I should arrive: so he went about then to collect what people he could, and I suppose not more than a hundred were assembled. I preached on these words: *Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God,* Rom. ch. v. ver. 1, 2.—There were a few that seemed to relish the word. — *Thursday, August the 23d,* we proceeded, by way of *Axminster,* to *Lyme,* which place, through the goodness of our God, we reached about five o'clock in the evening. I immediately sent to a Mr. L. who was recommended to me by Mr. W. and to whom that gentleman had wrote, to inform him of my coming hither to-day with a design to preach. I waited for him till near half an hour after six, when he came and informed me he had not given any notice of my preaching, not having received the letter till that morn-

morning, and had been very busy, &c. It was now too late to assemble a congregation, who had received no previous notice, and I had to regret that I should have come so many miles out of my way, and that through a hilly country too; and, after all, should be disappointed. —*Friday* the 24th. We went to *Bridport*, where I determined, by the Lord's leave, to preach in the evening. There is a gracious Minister here, Mr. F. very catholic, and, I trust, warm-hearted in the cause of God. He received me with great regard and cordiality, and had given public notice of my preaching as soon as he knew it. I therefore preached in his Meeting, which is very commodious, and has three galleries. There is also another Meeting in this town, where the *Arian* heresy is maintained. Many of the members of this latter Meeting were also present, and some that had never been once within the walls before. As I was looking for a text in the pulpit, these words presented themselves: *Hearken to me, ye stout-hearted, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory*, Isaiah, ch. xlv. ver. 12, 13. — The Lord gave me liberty to speak largely to the stout-hearted, as well the outward careless, hardened sinner, as the dead, self-righteous professor. The rain poured down very heavily the whole time

of service, so that I blessed God we had the opportunity of so good a house. We spent the evening with the Minister, and some Christian friends, and Mr. M. who came to meet me from *Weymouth*, and desires his humble duty to your Ladyship. Mr. F. prayed very sweetly and affectionately before we parted, and we were all in hopes that the word was not spoken in vain.—This morning, *Saturday* the 25th, we proceeded to *Weymouth*, where I intend to stay till *Monday*, and then proceed, by way of *Salisbury*, &c. to *Brightelmstone*, where I hope to arrive this day se'nnight. We did not forget that yesterday was *the 24th of August*, but earnestly begged our Lord to give your Ladyship many returns of that day, to the increasing glory of God, and the more extensive spread of the gospel. The post is just going out, therefore we have only time to unite in most affectionate duty to your Ladyship.

I am, dear MADAM,

Your's most faithfully,

Bridport,
Aug. 25, 1781.

T. W.

AFTER I sent off my last packet, dated from *Bridport*, on *Saturday* the 25th, we proceeded to *Weymouth*, where we arrived safe in the evening. — No notice having

ing been given of my preaching this evening, I went out to survey the town for a proper spot to preach on the next evening; accordingly, I pitched on a large piece of ground, on an eminence, adjoining to the town, called the *Chaplet*, where there had formerly been a chapel.—*Sunday* the 26th. I preached in the morning at the chapel, but, though the congregation (Mr. M. says) was much larger than it usually is on a *Sunday* morning, on account of public notice being given that a stranger was to preach, I am sorry to say there were not quite an hundred people; however, those that were present, were considered as seeking souls, at least; and some few, I believe, very precious. There were also some that had been backsliders, that were much broken down when *they* were addressed in particular; and we all hope the Lord was present. The text was, *Matt. xxii. 42. What think ye of Christ?*—After sermon, I gave the communion to about ten or twelve only, who, I believe, are truly gracious people. After dinner, I went the second time to a sick gentlewoman, whom I visited the evening before, and who is considered as the flower of the congregation, Mrs. M. who has always encouraged the little handful here, when things have been at the lowest ebb. I administered the communion to her in private, and had very sweet conversation with her each time. The weather

looked very lowering all the afternoon; and our friends fearing it would rain, attempted to dissuade me from preaching out in the evening; but I determined, by the Lord's help, to sound the gospel trumpet on the *Chaplet*, at half an hour after five, where we arrived at the time appointed, and I suppose there were about a thousand people assembled. The wind blew very fresh, but, I bless God, there was no rain. Satan, however, gave me the meeting; and though the generality of the people stood very firm, and heard with great attention, many boys, encouraged by gentlemen's footmen, were very noisy and troublesome to the skirts of the congregation, by throwing burs among them. There were some loose fellows also, at a very little distance, threw up a cricket-ball, and made some little effort to play, but that was soon given over. However, though there was more noise and confusion than I ever preached in before, I was persuaded, from the opposition the Devil made by his agents, he was in apprehension of losing some of his subjects, and that the Lord was at work with the hearts of some that were present. The subject was taken from *Acts*, ch. xvii. ver. 22, 23. *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars-hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this*
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inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.—A few serious people came at night to thank me for coming amongst them, and hoped they should see me again, when the providence of God should bring me into those parts. I found myself much indisposed on *Monday* morning; but, as there was a necessity for my hastening forward, I left *Weymouth*, and went on to *Wareham*, but was not able to preach that night. We baited on the way at a very gracious Farmer's, who has been very active in the cause of God, in those parts, and is a very sensible and lively Christian.—When one of our friends asked him if he had not met with a great loss lately (for, it seems, he had so many acres of corn blighted as would have been worth 200*l.*) he said, No; he had no loss; the Lord was very good in giving him any thing, and very good in withholding it; it was all the Lord's; therefore, as it was best for him, and the Lord had a right to do what he would with his own, he could not call it *a loss*.—*Tuesday*, the 28th, we proceeded to *Ringwood*, but the wind and rain were so violent throughout the whole evening and night, that it was impracticable to attempt preaching out of doors, and I knew nothing of the principles of the Dissenting Minister; so we spent our evening at the Inn, and proceeded in the morning the shortest way

to *Chichester* ; which, as I was under a necessity of reaching on *Thursday*, we were obliged to stop at a small village on *Wednesday* evening. Blessed be God ! we reached *Chichester* the next day in the afternoon, where I preached in your Ladyship's chapel, on *Solomon's Song*, ch. ii. ver. 4. *He brought me to the banqueting-house, and his banner over me was love.* Afterwards I gave the Communion to the Society. — *Friday* the 31st, I preached in a Malt-house, at *Arundel*, as the old Meeting is enlarging : which, upon the whole, is better attended than usual, and the Student preaches there from *Chichester* every *Sunday* afternoon. I cannot say I ever perceived much life among the people here, so I was led to speak from these words, *Hosea*, ch. vii. ver. 8, 9, *Ephraim he hath mixed himself among the people ; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not : yea, grey hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth it not !* — Mr. C. was very thankful for the seasonable admonition and reproof. I spoke also to an elderly person that has for some years made a profession, but, for want of knowing herself more, and looking for that in herself which can be found no where but in Christ, is in great darkness, and under great temptation. Another elderly woman I visited also, who is going fast into eternity ; and, I hope, she knows the Lord, and is very comfortable

fortable in her own soul; so, I trust, something is going on even at *Arundel*, and that we shall yet see better days there.—On *Saturday, September* the 1st. It pleased our gracious Shepherd to bring us home to *Brightelmstone* in safety, and we could not but look back with wonder and gratitude on the mercies we had received; the protection from every danger we had experienced in a journey of perhaps little less than a thousand miles since we left *Bath*, and not a hair of our heads hurt, but goodness and mercy following us from stage to stage throughout the whole journey; together with the great privilege and honour of sounding the gospel-trumpet in various counties, towns, and villages, to thousands and tens of thousands; and, above all, to be highly favoured with our Lord's presence, which we shall never be enough thankful for.—Here then ends my long Journal of this summer's excursion; and I humbly desire to testify, that as long as the Lord spares my insignificant life, I shall be happy to spend every summer thus; and, when death comes, that it may find me in this delightful service.—To the blessed Head of the Church I heartily commend your Ladyship, and earnestly pray that he will continue to load you with spiritual benefits, and make your invaluable life an increasing blessing to thousands upon thousands; richly repaying you for all

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your

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your services in the gospel, and causing you
to see the work of the Lord more and more
prospering in your hands.

I am, dear MADAM,

Ever your LADYSHIP'S

Brighthelmstone,
Sept. 3, 1781.

Most devoted,

T. W.

A JOURNAL,

A
JOURNAL, &c.

Bromwich, July 16, 1781.

Honour'd MADAM,

AS your Ladyship wished to be informed of the most material circumstances that might occur on my Northern Tour, I now sit down to communicate a brief account of my proceedings since I left *Bristol*.

Through the kind protection of the blessed God, I got safe to *Worcester* on *Saturday* the 7th instant. The next morning I preached on *Hebrews*, ch. x. ver. 35. *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.* Afterwards I administered the Sacrament, and humbly hope we had some gracious appearances of the Divine Presence. In the afternoon I had the pulpit at *St. Peter's*, and attempted to set forth the inestimable blessings of Redemption, from *Job*, ch. xix. ver. 25. *I know that my Redeemer liveth.* — In the evening, Mr. E. (who had supplied the chapel for some months at the first opening, and was much respected among the

the people) gave us an excellent sermon. He is a young man eminent in wisdom, and unaffected humility, and does credit to your Ladyship's College. Our friends intreated me to preach again the following evening. The next day, *Tuesday* the 10th, I arrived at *Kidderminster*, and was much exercised with peculiar barrenness and distress of soul, both in the pulpit and in conversation, the remaining part of the evening. I wished to be gone early in the morning, but had promised to preach at seven, and am thankful for any small degree of liberty after such unusual darkness and misery.—On *Wednesday* the 11th, I called on our old friend Mr. *F.* who received me with great cordiality. He rode about his parish, and in about an hour after my arrival the church was near full. My subject was the liberty of the gospel, from *Galatians*, ch. v. ver. 1. *Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*—I principally endeavoured to shew, that our justification through the righteousness of Christ, maintained and experienced in the heart, was the only foundation for every degree of holiness.—Mr. *G.* his curate, very civilly accompanied me the next day on my way to *Wolverhampton*, and there I met with an unexpected occurrence, which was, permission to preach in one of Mr. *W.*'s pulpits.—The next morning I went with a friend or two to
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see a new painting over the Communion-table in one of the churches.—It represents the taking down our blessed Lord from the Cross. Several persons were present on the same occasion with us, and I had a good opportunity of describing to them the great end of our Saviour's Death and Resurrection. They seemed much struck with what they heard and saw, and I hope it may prove a favourable opening for my preaching in the Market-place of that town next *Sunday*. I came under the hospitable roof of Mr. *W.* at *West Bromwich*, last *Friday*, the 13th, and preached the same evening to many hundreds, before the door. The text was, *Psalms xxxvi. ver. 7. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*—I hope it was a comfortable time to many, if I may judge from their tears and serious attention.—On *Sunday* the 15th, I began the day at *Wednesbury*, where the Meeting was quite crowded. In the afternoon I preached out of doors, to at least two thousand, and in the evening at *Bilston*, to near the same number. My texts for the day were, First, *Jer. ch. ii. ver. 13. My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.* Second, *Jer. viii. 22. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter*
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ter of my people recovered? — Third, 2 Tim. ch. iv. ver. 7. *I have fought a good fight.*— I saw many were affected under each sermon, and may showers from Heaven water the seed that is sown, that it may bring forth fruit abundantly, to the praise and glory of the Lord of the Harvest.—In the close of the day I was not more fatigued than I usually am by preaching twice in one of the chapels. Blessed be our gracious Lord and Master for strength and consolation according to our day. I am engaged to preach this week at *Darleston, Walsal, Dudley, Bromwich, and Birmingham*, and on Sunday the 29th, at *Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and Walsal*. In almost all these places, if the weather is favourable, a table will be my pulpit, the canopy of the heavens my sounding-board; and oh! that Jesus may preside in our assemblies, that his glory may be seen, and his almighty arm revealed in the salvation of poor sinners.—Mr. H. your Ladyship's student, goes on with abundant zeal and diligence, and, as far as I can learn, with some degree of success, and is generally well received among the people.—My intention is to move Northwards, on Monday the 30th, by way of *Ashby, Melburne, Nottingham, &c.* and hope to be at *Lincoln* against August the 5th. Our friends at *Birmingham* have pressed me much to give them one Sunday for the public streets, but I fear my other engagements will not admit of my stopping so long
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in these parts. The summer is pretty far advanced, and I wish, if possible, to extend my line to *Newcastle* before I return. May the Lord make my way clear before me! and bless my feeble efforts for the honour of his name, and the gathering in of his scattered flock. I hope to be remembered by your Ladyship at the Throne of Grace: and may ten thousand blessings be upon your devoted heart and multiplied labours.

I remain, Honoured MADAM,

Your LADYSHIP'S

Faithful obedient Servant,

C. G.

Asby De la Zouch, July 24, 1781.

Honour'd MADAM,

ON *Thursday* the 19th I had the honour of receiving the packet of letters, which reached me at *Bromwich*. In my last I informed your Ladyship of the various places I was engaged to preach at in the course of the last week.—At *Darleston*, on *Monday* the 16th, we had at least fifteen hundred of the poor Colliers and Nailors. My subject was, *Behold, he prayeth!* Acts, ch. ix. ver. 11. And I humbly hope a small degree of that divine power, that overcame *Paul's* pride and infidelity in his way to *Damascus*, rested upon us,
if

if we may judge from the serious attention, many tears, and hearty *Amens* of the dear people.—On *Tuesday* the 17th, I preached in a large Dissenting Meeting-house, at *Walsal*, to a serious auditory of about six hundred, but felt much dejection of spirits and barrenness of mind in the pulpit, and the remainder of the evening. — On *Wednesday* the 18th, I mounted my old rostrum in the streets of *Dudley*, and, blessed be God! had some degree of liberty and feeling in setting forth the astonishing sufferings and humiliation of the Son of God, and the glorious consequences to Himself and Sinners, from *Philip*. ch. ii. and latter part of the 8th verse, *He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross*.—The congregation was computed to be two thousand; we had no kind of interruption, but all appeared solemn and attentive. One of them said to his companions, after it was over, “ I will hear this Preacher no more, for he comes too near me.”—On *Thursday* the 19th, we had a large assembly before Mr. *W.*’s door, at *Bromwich-Heath*, and I was enabled to speak closely to professors on the importance and necessity of a holy walk and conversation from Evangelical principles. — I rode the next day to *Birmingham*, and felt much fatigued, and relaxed with the heat of the weather, and the labours of the preceding days, and had, upon the whole, an uncomfortable evening, which di-

distressed me not a little, as I wished to acquit myself with decency before so respectable and numerous an assembly.—The following evening, *Saturday* the 21st, I returned to my very comfortable retreat at *Bromwich*, and, by prayer and meditation, endeavoured to have my mind prepared for the important services of the Sabbath.—At six the next morning, my kind friend, Mr. *W—b* accompanied me to *Wolverhampton*; many threats had been given out by some of the town, that I should not be permitted to preach in the Market-place; and being told, they had disturbed and pulled down with violence one of Mr. *W—y*'s Preachers, who had made the same attempt, I cannot say but I felt some shameful cowardice, but was determined not to yield to it, and committing myself into his hands, *whose I am, and whom I serve*, I stood up at the place appointed, and had not sung above a verse of that excellent Hymn, *How sad our state by nature is*, but the people came pouring down from all quarters, and I think we had the largest congregation I have yet seen since I left *Bristol*. Instead of riot and confusion, we had silence and attention, and no attempt whatever to disturb us. I endeavoured to explain and enforce the alarming words of Christ, *Luke*, ch. xii. ver. 40. *Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not*.—From what I saw and felt I was thankful

ful to my blessed Lord for the opportunity, and wished, if my other engagements would have admitted, to have given them another sermon—but do hope my dear fellow-labourers will have compassion on that populous town, where many thousands are perishing for want of knowledge.—In the afternoon I went to *Wednesbury*, and attempted to set forth the wondrous work of our God and Saviour, in Creation, Providence, and Redemption, and our duty to look on with humility, delight and praise, from *Judges*, ch. xiii. ver. 19. *And the angel did wonderfully, and Manoah and his wife looked on.*—In the evening, I stood up in the streets of *Walsal*, and pointed out, in the most forcible manner I could, the guilt and misery of mankind, and the only method of their recovery and salvation by Jesus Christ, from *Isaiab*, ch. liii. ver. 6. *All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*—The far greater part of the people behaved with much decency; and some seemed remarkably struck with the charge I brought against them, of having broken all the commandments, which I endeavoured to prove from the word of God, their confessions in the Prayer-Book, and by an appeal to their own consciences.—Mr. *J.* the Independent Minister of that town, received me as a brother; he seems of an excellent spirit, and goes on with unwearied zeal and diligence in his

his Master's work. The congregation, at the last place, was supposed to be near two thousand, but by no means so large as that at *Wednesbury*. I was not a little exhausted in the evening, but somewhat impressed with a sense of the distinguishing mercies conferred on so unworthy a creature. To have strength and opportunity to preach the gospel of peace to so many thousands of precious souls, who attend upon the word, and to have any small appearances of the divine favour; together with the kindness and hospitality of our friends in the different places, laid me low at his feet from whose bounty and sovereign grace these blessings and honours flow.—On *Monday* the 23d, I got safe to this town, once your Ladyship's residence. I fear the inhabitants will, too late, repent of their folly and ingratitude for slighting the many precious opportunities your Ladyship has afforded them for hearing the words of eternal life. We had about fifty last night at the chapel, and I had some delight and freedom in attempting to open the inexhaustible treasures of that one verse, *Psalms lxxxiv. ver. 11. The Lord God is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*—Mr. G. gave me the meeting here, and begs, together with Mrs. A. the most dutiful remembrances to your Ladyship. I go with him this afternoon to *Castle Donington*, and on *Wednesday* the 25th, to

Melbourne, afterwards I move on to *Nottingham*.—May the presence of the Lord go with me, then labour is easy, pain is sweet, and life or death is gain. May abundant peace and prosperity dwell in your Ladyship's soul, with all those who are under your roof, and ever attend your extensive and various engagements for the glory of Christ, and the salvation of souls, this is, and ever shall be the earnest prayer of,

Dear MADAM,

Your affectionate and dutiful Servant
in the Gospel,

C. G.

Nottingham, Aug. 4, 1781.

Honour'd MADAM,

I Desire to be thankful to our gracious Lord for health and strength to go on in the delightful work I am at present engaged in. To preach in the itinerant way, is, I am persuaded, not only agreeable to the will of God, but singularly adapted for spreading divine light and knowledge among the poor and ignorant. The last account I transmitted to your Ladyship was from *Ashby*. Mr. G. accompanied me from thence to *Castle-Donington*, where a few serious people seemed to receive the word with attention and delight.

Weda-

Wednesday the 25th, I went to *Staunton*, and had the pleasure of meeting Mr. *W.* from *London*, who has, for some years, exerted himself nobly for the interest of the gospel in these parts. I preached in his brother's house to a few people, who had been driven from the labours of the field by a shower of rain. — On *Thursday* the 26th we went to *Melburne*, and had a congregation in the evening of about two hundred: I was much pleased with the seriousness of my auditory, and also with the neatness and pleasant situation of their new chapel. Their faithful Pastor, Mr. *G.* your Ladyship's late student, is a young man of good judgment, and of an excellent spirit. I hope they are thankful for so invaluable a blessing, and will endeavour, by every possible means, to strengthen his hands in the work of the Lord. — On *Friday* the 27th, I got safe to this town, and preached in a very large Meeting-house the same evening; and gave notice I should take up my stand in the Market-place on the following *Sunday*, viz. the 29th, which was also inserted in one of the weekly papers the next day. At eight in the morning we had at least two thousand; and, though I felt a painful pressure on my breast, whilst preaching, yet the Lord gave me such liberty, on *Luke*, ch. xxiv. ver. 32. *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked to us by the way, and while he opened to us the scripture?* — that,

blessed be His Name! there seemed to be silence and solemnity in the congregation. In the afternoon I preached again in the Meeting-house; and at the Market Cross in the evening, where I think we had the largest congregation I ever saw. They were thought, at a moderate computation, to be not less than five thousand; and, what is very desirable, a good degree of seriousness and attention was visible in the whole assembly, and some few were much affected. I endeavoured to set before them the dreadful consequences of their having broken the law of God, and the infinite love of Christ, who became a curse for us, to redeem us from the curse of the law. The Lord was graciously pleased to afford me more than usual freedom and authority in delivering my message, and I do sincerely hope some precious souls will bless God for that opportunity. When I first began, I was so hoarse that I almost despaired of being heard by one half of the people; but my voice soon became clear and strong, and my poor heart bold and free, to proclaim the dying love and atonement of a precious Saviour. I was so encouraged by the delightful prospect of winning some souls to Christ, as determined me to spend another *Sunday* with them. Honest Mr. *H.* one of your Ladyship's students, conducted me the next day to *More-Green*, and I had a good time in setting forth the sovereign, free, and eternal love of
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God in our adoption and glorification, from *Jer. ch. iii. ver. 19. But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? And I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.*—May the spirit of God impress those glorious truths upon their hearts who seemed to listen to them with pleasure!—On *Tuesday* the 31st, Mr. H. attended me to *Ilston*, where I preached out of doors to some hundreds, on *Rev. ch. i. ver. 5, 6. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*—but the heat of the weather so oppressed my spirits, that I got through the service with pain and difficulty.—Your Ladyship will rejoice to hear that Messrs. H. and G. go on well in their respective charges, and are diligent in their endeavours to spread the gospel in the neighbouring villages. They still retain their former zeal and simplicity, and, I trust, will persevere unto the end.—On *Wednesday* the 1st, Mr. H. and I had a pleasant ride to *Matlock*. I was much pleased with the romantic and striking situation of that place. The late Mr. N. has built a chapel there, which is at present shut up. I was offered the use of it that evening; but there being no hopes of a congregation with so short notice, we returned to *Ripley*, and after drink-

ing tea at the Inn, where we had an opportunity of speaking to two young women on the advantages of true religion, who were much surprized, and, I hope, impressed with the weight of the subject, I went to the Green before the door (having previously dispatched two lads to give notice of my preaching), and began to talk to the people in the plainest manner I could ; many of them seemed remarkably attentive. I felt a tender concern for their souls ; and, after commending them to God, and the word of his grace, I published my brother *H.* for that day fortnight. I do hope this unexpected visit is an earnest of some blessings in reserve for that town.—On *Friday* the 3d, I returned to *Nottingham*, and preached in the Meeting : I was rather shut up in spirit, but a judicious friend told me afterwards, that himself and some others were much refreshed, which was a great comfort to me.—A young woman called to inform me, that seven years ago she received a blessing from my preaching, and has attended the gospel ever since. Another friend told me, that several had joined Mr. *W.*'s society, who were first awakened at the Market-Cross, the same year ; and Mr. *H.* has just now been with me, to let me know that a remarkable backslider, belonging to his congregation, had been struck, last *Monday*, under the word ; and that prejudices were removed from others.—*Monday* the 6th, I direct my course for
Newark,

Newark, Normanton, &c. and purpose being at *Lincoln* against the 12th. — May the God of *Abraham* attend me with his gracious presence, and afford your Ladyship abundant consolation in hearing of the prosperity of *Zion*, and that the dominion of Satan, in the hearts of many poor sinners, is overthrown by the preaching of the Cross of Christ this summer!

I am, dear MADAM,

Your affectionate and dutiful Servant,

C. G.

York, Aug. 20, 1781.

THE last time I had the honour of addressing your Ladyship, was from *Nottingham*, dated the 4th instant. On the ensuing Sabbath I preached at the Cross at eight in the morning; in a large Meeting-house at eleven, and at the Cross again at six in the evening. The congregations were much larger than on the preceding *Sunday*; and, I bless God! I was carried through the labours of the day with some degree of liberty and delight. The subjects I discoursed upon were taken from, First, the 1st Epistle of *John*, ch. iii. ver. 1. *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God.* — Second, from *Exodus*, ch. xxiii. ver. 20, 21, 22. *Behold, I send an*

angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then will I be an enemy to thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.—

Third, *Luke, ch. ix. ver. 11. And he healed them that had need of healing.*—On Monday the 6th, I had a most delightful ride to *Newark*; the greater part of my road lay near the banks of the *Trent*, and the many pleasing objects in my view, raised my thoughts to Him from whom all the beauties of the creation flow, and in whom all human and divine excellencies center. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. B. your Ladyship's student, at *Newark*, who had the day before preached twice in the Market-place, without any interruption. Some years ago, Mr. G. at that time one of your Ladyship's students, made an attempt there, at the peril of his life, and had as narrow and providential an escape from the fury of his persecutors, as *Paul* had when he fled in the night from *Damascus*. It is a favourable circumstance for itinerant preachers that field and street-preaching is become more respectable throughout the land, and that prejudices against it are daily wearing off. The room, where the people assembled in the evening, was remarkably crowded, and I was much affected with the heat.—

heat.—The next day I went to *Normanton*, and preached in the open air to a few serious people, and many of them were much refreshed.—On *Wednesday* I visited my friends at *Grantham*, and attempted to open these precious words in *Colossians*, ch. iii. ver. 4. *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*—Mr. B. accompanied me the next day to *Sleaford*, and, after the labours of the field were over, near two hundred attended upon the word and worship of Almighty God.—The next Lord's Day, viz. the 12th, I spent with our friends at *Lincoln*, and rejoiced to find that Mr. B.'s labours afforded general satisfaction, and, I hope, considerable profit.—On *Wednesday* the 14th, I came to *Gainsborough*. Mr. M. and Mr. S. accompanied me to *Crowle* on *Thursday*, and in the evening we had a good company. In the latter part of my discourse I was led to speak on the most interesting things with all plainness of speech; a good degree of solemnity and seriousness was visible among the people.—On *Friday* the 16th, I got safe to this city, and preached twice on the following Sabbath, from *Deut.* ch. xxxiii. ver. 29. *Happy art thou, O Israel: Who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thine excellency!* And from *Isaiah*, ch. ii. ver. 17. *The loftiness of Man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made*

made low : and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. On Monday evening, from *Psalms* lxii. ver. 8. *Trust in him at all times ; ye people, pour out your hearts before him : God is a refuge for us.*—And, if I may judge from my own feelings, we were not destitute of our dear Lord's presence and blessing.—My not hearing from my friend at *Newcastle*, has determined me to proceed no further North, at present. I mean to take a turn into the *West Riding*, and, after visiting *Sheffield*, &c. shall endeavour to spend a few days more among my *Lincolnshire* friends.—May the God of all grace abundantly bless and preserve your Ladyship !

I am, dear MADAM,

Your obedient and affectionate Servant,

C. G.

Lincoln, Sept. 4, 1781.

Honour'd MADAM,

THIS morning I returned from my Tour in *Yorkshire*, and had the honour of your Ladyship's letter. — When I left *York*, I directed my course to *Leeds*, where I preached at Mr. E.'s Meeting to a numerous and attentive auditory, on 2 *Cor.* ch. v. ver. 14, 15. *For the love of Christ constraineth us ; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead : And that he died for all,*
that

that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. — From thence I proceeded to Mr. K.'s, at *Kirkburton*, there was a funeral the same evening. Some hundreds were assembled in the church, and I trust we had a solemn opportunity. — Mr. K. published me for the next evening, and that large church was near full; blessed be God! I had some sacred pleasure in discoursing on *Amos*, ch. iii. ver. 3. *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* — I humbly hope the people received some profit. — The following evening, which was *Saturday*, there was another funeral, and I spoke to the people. Three young clergymen, who live in the neighbourhood, were in the church on *Friday*, and we spent an hour together, after service was over, in agreeable and serious conversation. — On *Sunday* the 9th, Mr. K.'s church, both in the morning and afternoon, was quite crowded: I think I never saw so large a congregation in any church out of *London*; and I was much pleased with their striking up, *Come let us join our chearful songs, &c.* before the prayers began. There was visibly much attention and seriousness among the people, whilst I endeavoured to describe the spirit and privileges of the true Christian, from *Phil.* ch. iii. ver. 3. *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.* —

In

In the afternoon I attempted to set forth the glory of Christ's person, His dying love, and His full and free salvation for perishing sinners, from *Phil.* ch. ii.—I went and preached the same evening in *Aldmonbury* church, about four miles from *Kirkburton*, and the congregation was as large as any I had that day. What an unspeakable blessing it is there are so many serious Ministers in that populous neighbourhood; and what an extensive field of usefulness for God's faithful servants!—On *Monday* the 17th, I came to *Rotherham*; Mr. K. accompanied me; we staid two nights under Mr. W.'s hospitable roof. He has built a very neat and commodious chapel; and, though it was a very wet evening, we had a few hundreds that attended with seriousness. The next day I came to *Sheffield*, and preached at Mr. B.'s, to a large and attentive auditory. The next morning I set off, and got to *Newark* in the evening. I was so much fatigued with the journey of forty miles, and for want of sleep the preceding evening, that I prevailed on Mr. B. to preach; he seems to be a promising young man. I was published by him to preach in the Market-place next *Sunday*, but the weather would not admit of it; however, I trust we had three comfortable Meetings in their little room that Lord's day.—I went from *Newark* to *Bloxham*, and preached in the church that is now supplied by Mr. M. (once your Ladyship's student) to a few people
on

on that blessed promise, *Matt. ch. xviii. ver. 20. Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*—I visited *Carlton* also, and had a precious opportunity on those words, *Psalms xxxiii. ver. 18. Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.*—As my engagements are now fulfilled, I purpose directing my course next week towards the West; shall be at *Worcester* in a fortnight. I hope to be remembered by your Ladyship at the throne of grace, and remain,

Honoured MADAM,

Your LADYSHIP'S

Faithful and obedient Servant,

C. G.

A JOURNAL

A
JOURNAL, &c.

MADAM,

Agreeable to your Ladyship's particular desire, I now sit down to give you an account of my tour*.

On *Wednesday, August* the 1st, I left *Spa-Fields*, and in the evening of the same day opened my commission at *Hounslow*. We first went upon the Heath in hopes of a congregation; but, through the hurry of the harvest, no people appeared, except a few boys at play. The few friends there, as well as myself, judged it best to return to the chapel in the town, and try appearances there. After a little time a small number of people collected together with the serious, and I preached. The Lord enabled me to address them with great plainness and boldness upon the important realities of religion. The people, in general, appeared very attentive, and the few serious amongst them, happy; but I cannot say there is much to be hoped for in that place, at present: a sermon upon the

* The Reader will please to observe, that the following Letters were, from day to day, written by way of Journal.

Heath

Heath on the Lord's day, would give the best and most satisfactory trial. — *Thursday* the 2d, I came here, and preached in the evening to a very pretty congregation, considering the hurrying season of wheat-harvest. We had indeed a most remarkable time. The people of God appeared divinely watered, and graciously refreshed from above: this, I trust, is only a bunch of the first-fruits, and a pledge of greater glories following the word every day. To-morrow, if the Lord will, I go for *Reading*, and, by the people's very pressing letter, am constrained to spend the sabbath there; in the morning to preach and give the sacrament, and in the evening, if it can be accomplished, I hope to preach in the open air. — *Saturday* the 4th, I arrived safe at *Reading*, and was received in the most affectionate manner by our warm-hearted brother Mr. C.—On the Lord's Day morning, preached from *Luke*, ch. xii. ver. 32. *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*—Here we had a most gracious and melting time among God's people: the Lord seemed richly to feed their souls. Indeed, this congregation, though small, is the most lively, simple, and affectionate, I have long seen; my very soul was charmed and delighted with the sight of so many melted hearts and weeping eyes. Surely, the Lord has much, very much work, from these appearances, to do in this place. At half past two we met again for exhortation and
sacra-

sacrament; never did I see more glorious displays of redeeming power among the Lord's followers; this scene exceeded the morning season, and much liberty did my heart feel in addressing these dear people. In the evening, at six, I preached again to a very crowded auditory: this was an earnest address to the unconverted; great solemnity and attention appeared in every face, and I do hope some great good was done in the Lord's name. To Him be all the glory!—*Monday* the 6th. This morning early we parted with our dear *Reading* friends, and came to *Newbury*, attended by the student, Mr. P. where I am appointed to preach in the Independent Meeting for Mr. M. The Lord, I trust, will be with us of a truth.—According to appointment, I preached in Mr. M.'s Meeting-house to an attentive congregation, on the necessity of forgiveness, and was particularly led to insist upon the knowledge of this blessing as the present privilege of God's people. This place in general appears very dead and lifeless indeed. The church people, I fear, are great enemies to the truths of the gospel, as well as the power of godliness; nevertheless, the Lord gave me to speak with freedom and with boldness. Here I think the people want some rousing sermons in the fields, upon the Lord's Day, to stir them up. O Lord, prosper thy word among them for thy own glory!—*Tuesday, August* the 7th. This morning came to *Marlborough*, nineteen miles from
New-

Newbury, and preached in the evening, by appointment, to a small assembly. My spirit was solemn, and felt much impressed with the consideration of the worth of souls, but did not enjoy that inward sweetness and delight, which the Lord is pleased often graciously to impart in his blessed work. The Lord's people, however, seemed much refreshed under the word; but the people in the town appear in general averse to the gospel.—*Wednesday* the 8th. This morning came to *Clack*, sixteen miles of the most dreadful roads I ever travelled, over rocks and mountains; and, what was worse than all, when we arrived, Mr. Y. was not at home: so that the appointment of three letters had been neglected; consequently, the people did not expect me to preach here to-day; however, by the great activity of some Christian friends, speedy notice was given to the whole neighbourhood, and a very blessed congregation was assembled in the evening, to whom I preached. In this season I felt a peculiar softness and sweetness over my own spirit, and the Lord enabled me to address His people with much freedom. If we may judge from appearances, I should hope a real blessing was here bestowed from above, and that the hearts of God's redeemed were watered with the showers of his love.—*Thursday* the 9th. This morning rode to *Malmesbury*; and, according to appointment,

H preached

preached in the open air. The congregation was not large, but very attentive, and I was now enabled to address the people with great plainness, from *Rom. ch. v. ver. 1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*—Yet I cannot say I found any thing of that inward sweetness and composure of spirit I so happily enjoyed last night at *Clack*. It is, perhaps, good for me; but as the work is all his own, He will cause his word to accomplish that for which He sends it forth among men.—*Friday* the 10th. Came this day to *Brinkworth*, where I preached, at seven in the evening, to a very sweet and attentive auditory. Here the power of God, in a very remarkable manner, appeared to come down among the people, while I spoke from *Colossians, ch. iii. ver. 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*—I know not when I experienced a greater degree of freedom and liberty in the blessed work of the Lord. The word of God, I do believe, did go, as it were, from heart to heart, and was glorified. In this place, I think, there is a most promising appearance of a great work being carried on. The people are thirsting for the word of life, but they want labourers. A student might be well employed here, at *Malmesbury*, and at *Tetbury*, where the opening for the gospel is most general.—*Saturday* the 11th. This day employed in study, prayer, and

and writing ; but, very unfortunately, I caught a bad cold and sore throat on *Thursday* night, while preaching in the open air, when cold and damp, and which was last night so increased by riding home, that this morning my breast is greatly oppressed, and I have entirely lost my voice. Notwithstanding this distressing circumstance, I am published to preach in two different places tomorrow, *Sunday* the 12th, where large congregations are expected. The Lord, I trust, will appear to raise me, and give me new strength for new work ; for He knows I do long only to live, labour, and, die in his blessed and free service. If the Lord spares me, my next route will be for *Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Overbury, and Worcester*, where I hope to be favoured with a line from your Ladyship.—Follow me, dear Madam, in every place, with your prayers, that the word of the Lord may run and be abundantly glorified ; and be assured, your Ladyship never is, or will be, forgotten, in the best moments, by

Your ever devoted
and faithful Servant in the Gospel,

Saturday,
Aug. 11, 1781.

W. P.

Dear MADAM !

NOTwithstanding my distress, occasioned by an inflammation in my throat, and a cold in my stomach, the Lord enabled me to preach this morning, *August 12*, at *Lae*, in a very crowded church. The people were gathered from the whole neighbourhood, and appeared very solemn and attentive under the word of life. — Great liberty, and a divine unction from above, did my own soul enjoy (I know not when it was more so) ; and while the word of God fell with power, many hearts were melted down, and many eyes overflowing with tears. Surely, the Lord was wonderfully present here ; and this was no other than the House of God, and the Gate of Heaven. In the afternoon I preached again, at a place two miles from the other church, called *Gerson*, to a much larger congregation than in the morning. Of a truth did I now find that word fulfilled, *As thy day is, so shall thy strength be.* — Here again we saw evidently the displays of the Redeemer's power and glory, while the glad tidings of salvation went abroad, from *Heb. ch. ii. ver. iii. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?* — This was rather a solemn and awful warning to sinners that were unacquainted with the love and grace of Christ ; but afterwards, I was told, the Lord made it a remarkable and
blessed

bleſſed time to his own people. If the Lord will work, who ſhall lett it? — *Auguſt* the 14th, we arrived at *Rodborough*, where I preached to a glorious congregation, I believe, of praying ſouls. If we may judge by the affectionate congratulations, and warm thanks of the people, with their hearty *Amens*, a real bleſſing was beſtowed from the Lord among them.—*Wednesday* the 15th. Came this day to *Overbury*, 25 miles from *Rodborough*, where I am, God willing, to preach to-morrow evening, and at *Tewkeſbury* on *Friday*, in the open fields.—*Friday* the 17th. Had a very comfortable and bleſſed time in my own ſoul laſt night, preaching to the people in this place. On account of harveſt, the congregation was ſmall; but, I truſt, our bleſſings were neither few nor ſmall. The Lord's power ſeemed to be preſent, and, I believe, his dear children had a real bleſſing. O, my God! how does my whole ſoul long for the univerſal ſpread of the goſpel in every dark corner of the land. O, wilt thou go with me this day into the fields of a truth, and clothe me with the garments of ſalvation, that all thy ſaints may ſing aloud for joy and gladneſs of heart! Then ſhall the name of my Lord be as ointment poured forth, and every virgin-ſoul ſhall love him. — In the evening preached in the field of a kind Quaker, at *Tewkeſbury*. Here I uſed to preach nine or ten years ago, when great numbers of all ranks conſtantly attended, and ſuch

a power of God followed the word, and such a thirst for the gospel in this place ensued, that one gentleman offered land, another an hundred pounds, and a third, thirty, towards building a chapel. To-night we had a fine congregation, considering it was so long since they had any field-preaching, and, I dare say, could it now be followed up, the auditories would be as large as ever. The people were very attentive, and some, after sermon said, the Lord gave them a remarkable blessing from above.—Surely, He will open a great and effectual door in this large town for the preaching and spread of his gospel. There really now wants nothing but a place, and great numbers would attend.—*Saturday* the 18th. I am just arrived at *Worcester*, where, if the Lord will, I am to spend the Sabbath. Mr. S. seems much pleased that it has so fallen out for me to be here to-morrow. — *Sunday, August* the 19th. This morning preached in the chapel at *Worcester*, the congregation was very small. From the appearances in this great city, I much fear religion is not here in a flourishing state. The people at large seem very indifferent, and even those that are serious, I am afraid, have lost much of the life and power of godliness. In the evening preached to a much larger congregation than in the morning: but never was in more distress both of body and mind. My cough and breast greatly oppressed me; but, what was worse, my soul was

was bowed down beyond measure. It was, indeed, the most dark and painful season of preaching I remember for many weeks; my mind was so unhappy, that I would gladly have run from myself; but, notwithstanding the misery of my own feelings, I was afterwards told the Lord made it a blessed and gracious time to many of his dear people. In the evening, after sermon, we had a Sacrament, and the adorable Jesus divinely appeared. Much liberty did I now enjoy in exhorting, during the solemnity, and great sweetness in my own soul, while the Lord's sheep were led, as it were, into his green pastures. That man of sorrows shewed himself the tender, feeling, and compassionate friend, that, in every distress, sticketh closer than a brother.—*West Bromwich, August the 20th.* Monday evening arrived at this place, and was most kindly received by my dear old friend Mr. W. but so distressing and oppressive is my cough, that I am almost rendered useless in the Lord's vineyard; nevertheless, the Lord is good, and often favours me with a gracious smile, though my rebellious heart is prone to murmur against him.—*Wednesday the 22d.* Preached this evening to a glorious congregation, in the open air. I believe there were fifteen hundred people, and I was enabled to speak with a great degree of freedom to many of my dear spiritual children in the Lord. There were indeed many wet eyes under the word;

and, I do believe, many of God's people had a peculiar blessing. I do not know how it is, but I am always more at home here than in any other part of the world, and enjoy that peculiar sweetness in declaring the truths of God, that I very rarely feel elsewhere. Such is my attachment to these dear spiritual children, that, if I might follow the leadings of my own mind, I should wish to live, labour, and die with them; nor is my tender affection lost, for I verily believe they love me with all the ardour of the most affectionate friends in the world. O, my dearest Lord! stand by me, strengthen me, anoint me, and enable me daily to work more and more for thee, because thou knowest, *The night will soon come when no man can work.*—*Saturday the 25th.* Preached last night, at *Darleston*, to a goodly company of people. The sight of the poor, simple Colliers would have rejoiced your Ladyship's heart. My breast greatly distressed me while speaking in the open air, and I believe had a considerable effect upon my spirit, which deprived me of much of that divine sweetness I often enjoy; nevertheless, the Lord gave a blessing to many of his dear people. The awful declension of religion that has taken place in these parts, is indeed very painful to behold; but a hope of the Lord's blessing the word, to the revival of his bleeding cause, will determine me to continue preaching in all these large and very populous towns as long

long as possible. My soul longs ardently to see something of that divine fire rekindled, which I once so gloriously beheld. The appearances are promising, from the readiness of the people to fly to the gospel-standard; and from that spirit of prayer and power given, my hopes and expectations are very sanguine. That God, who has the residue of the spirit with him, will, I trust, pour him forth upon this dear people, that every heart may revive as the corn, and flourish as the vine in the courts of the Lord.—My most Christian respects attends your Ladyship's whole happy retinue in *Wales*. May grace, rich grace, be multiplied very abundantly to your Ladyship, to them, and to,

Your LADYSHIP'S

Ever devoted Servant in the Gospel,

Saturday,
Aug. 25, 1781.

W. P.

MADAM,

THIS whole week I have been flattering myself with the hopes of a line from your Ladyship, but am disappointed. I hope, however, you are well.—*Aug. 26*. This morning I preached at *Wednesbury*, there were not less than three thousand people listening with the utmost attention to hear the word of life.

Great

Great liberty did the Lord give me to address them with all faithfulness, from *Rev. ch. ii. ver. 4. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

—The power of God appeared evidently present among the people; and, from the many hearts that were broken down under the sermon, we have great reason to conclude much good was done in the name of the Lord. In these parts the people manifest an uncommon desire to hear the blessed free gospel, and I do verily believe we shall see a glorious revival of the dear Redeemer's blessed cause here. At this place the Student Mr. H. resides, and preaches about in most of the adjacent towns, and, I am told, with a good degree of acceptance to the people.—In the evening I preached again at *Bromwich*, to I believe twice the number of precious souls we had in the morning at *Wednesbury*, and with equal liberty, life, and power. The Lord's glory wonderfully appeared; and though we had a kind of mist and small rain the whole time, the people stood like lambs, or, rather, like immortals hearing for eternity, while I continued preaching for near an hour.—The broken hearts and overflowing eyes under the word would have made your Ladyship's heart leap for joy. Surely, God was of a truth in this place, and it was no other than the House of God, and the very Gate of Heaven. It is very remarkable that the people flock
more

more to hear the gospel in this place than in any other, which, I suppose, must arise from its local situation, being central to all the large and populous towns lying round it.—*Tuesday* the 28th. This evening preached at *Walsal*, and, though it rained very hard, the poor people came for many miles round, and we had a glorious congregation: more than curiosity, I am persuaded, must incline these precious souls to come so far in such dreadful weather to hear the word of God. To-night we had the use of a good chapel, and, blessed be God! it was well filled; but, what was more glorious, the Lord was graciously present with us. A divine unction and power did my own heart feel from on high, and the same blessed power of God was evidently displayed in the midst of his people. The Lamb of God manifested forth his glory, and the hearts of his redeemed were made divinely happy while sitting under his blessed shadow. These are, indeed, *Bethel* visits; times much to be remembered.—*Wednesday* the 29th. This evening preached again at *Walsal*, to a large and solemn congregation. Surely, my gracious God! thine arm went abroad, and thy kingdom of grace came with a living and almighty power. In such a service and divine employ, who would not wish to spend and be spent—yea, to live and die?—It *now* brings its own wages, and its last *free reward* shall be a crown of immortal bliss, and unfading glory.

glory. — Work then, O my soul, while it is day, for thy Lord. — *Thursday, August 30.* This evening had a most glorious opportunity in preaching *Christ crucified* to a great concourse of people in the open streets of *Dudley*: by their attention and solemnity they indeed seemed to hear the word as for eternity. Who would not wish to live and serve such a Master? His service is truly perfect freedom. — *Sunday, Sept. 2.* Yesterday afternoon came to *Birmingham*, where I preached this morning, at half past eight o'clock, to an amazing concourse of people, in the open air. The Lord's glorious power was wonderfully displayed, and his spirit, I believe, poured out, not only upon my own heart, but also upon the people. I was told, after sermon, of a poor woman, who, the day before, was cursing all the Methodists, but was so wrought upon by the Lord's power under the word, that she went away weeping, ready to break her heart. I pray the Lord her conviction, and others that heard, may prove lasting. — There is truly an astonishing door opened for the faithful preaching of the gospel in this large and very populous town. The people's natural prejudices are so generally removed, that they appear ready to hear what any Minister has to offer them in the name of the Lord. — I hope once more to preach here before I leave this part of the country, and I am not without strong hopes, that the Lord of all Lords will yet more gloriously

riously spread the gospel among these precious souls, and that other great and effectual doors will be opened in different parts of this neighbourhood for his glory. To see thousands and thousands of people stand like lambs in the open streets, and in the midst of drizzling rain, and dark clouded skies, is so glorious a sight, that, methinks, I could willingly live and die in so divine a service. After sermon I rode to *Bromwich*, where I preached again as usual, at five o'clock, to an astonishing crowd of people. No weather, however bad, seems to deter them from coming to hear the word of life. Their ears are opened of a truth to hear, and their lips dwell upon the pleasing accents of salvation freely sounding through the blood of *Jesus*—*Tuesday, Sept. 4*, preached in the open air at the large and populous town of *Bilston*. There were, I believe, more than two thousand souls who listened to the word of God with the greatest attention; and, what gave me a peculiar degree of pleasure, was the prodigious number of young people of both sexes. The sermon was chiefly calculated for the unawakened, from *Romans*, ch. xiii. ver. 11. former part; *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep.*—And, indeed, the dear immortals, by their countenances, appeared in general to hear as if they were sensible of the worth of their precious souls, and were really desirous of being partakers of
ever-

everlasting salvation.—*Wednesday* the 5th. This afternoon was to have preached a second sermon in the streets of *Dudley*; but the excessive rains, which continued through the whole day, unfortunately prevented me.—*Thursday* the 6th. This evening preached a second time at *Wednesbury*, to a very blessed and serious congregation. The Lord was pleased to make it a very gracious and comfortable season to many, as I afterwards heard; nor was it less comfortable to myself. The glory of the Lord appearing, through the word, many eyes were melted into tears. A poor woman has just been with me, whose heart was deeply affected under the sermon at *Dudley*: she appears in very great distress of mind, and I do hope the Lord is powerfully working upon her poor soul.—To thy name, O Lord! be all the glory.—The glorious appearances of the Lord's work being most blessedly revived in these parts, constrain me to spend one more week in this very populous country. Every time I preach I think the people's thirst for the word of life appears to be greatly increased, and a greater power of God attends the word of salvation.—Could your Ladyship's eyes behold the astonishing congregations in every large town, I am sure your very heart would rejoice.—To-morrow, if the Lord spares me, I am to preach at the large town of *Wolverhampton*, in the Market-place, and in the evening of the same day at *Wednesbury*,
where

where there is to be a *great Wake*. Thousands and thousands, it is expected, will be there, and I trust the Lord will be with us while we attack the grand enemy of souls upon his own ground, and by His power make the Devil's kingdom to tremble. — On *Tuesday*, again at *Birmingham*; *Wednesday*, *Bromwich*; *Thursday*, *Gournal*; and the following Sabbath at *Walsal*, in the morning, and *Birmingham-streets* in the evening. The open door for the gospel, at the last mentioned place, is really wonderful. After this service is fulfilled, if the Lord spares me, I shall proceed for *Bedworth* and *Coventry*, for one week. Here the people are very desirous of hearing me, and the Ministers of the town have offered me both Church and Meeting. — *Sept. 9, Sunday*. This morning preached by appointment at *Wolverhampton*. There were many thousand people came to hear the word of God in the public Market-place, at half past eight. This was the first time I ever preached in this large town, and such kind of preaching is quite a new thing to the inhabitants; but never did I see a people in general hear with more candour, or behave with a greater degree of seriousness and attention. It was a very blessed time to my own soul; and, I verily believe, there were few present who did not feel more or less of the Lord's almighty power, grace, and love. The morning was calm and serene, the air soft and mild, and
all

all nature seemed to aid us in this divine service; but, above all, the dear and matchless Saviour of men shone upon us with such a peculiar grace, that the hearts of the people were really overpowered with the glorious beams of his light and glory. After sermon we rode to *Wednesbury*, where we dined with some of our dear old friends; and in the evening preached again to an incredible multitude of souls. I have very few times in my life seen a greater concourse. The subject now was the nature and necessity of the New Birth. I addressed them with a great degree of freedom, solemnity, and faithfulness. The hearers stood like so many statues, while the Lord's power went abroad, and appeared to listen to the joyful sound with that attention you would expect from immortal beings ready to enter into an eternal world. This sermon, I hope, will have some good effect upon the people's minds, to spoil the Devil's sports at the *Wake* for this time.—When the Lord waits to be gracious, every mountain and hill is brought low, every crooked path is made plain, and we find a people prepared for the Lord. Such are appearances in these parts, and I do believe the Lord has many people here.—*Tuesday, Sept. 11.* To-day preached at *Birmingham*, to a large and very crowded auditory.—This subject was more particularly suited to warm the hearts, refresh the spirits, and strengthen the faith and hope of God's people,

people (from *Titus*, ch. ii. ver. 13. *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ*), than the Discourses on *Sunday*. The thirst for the glorious gospel in this large town is really amazing; and from that divine unction and power of God, which seems ever here to attend the word preached, the Lord has many people in this place.—I do suppose, if there were as many more places opened for the gospel, as there are already, if there were found and acceptable Preachers, they would be all filled.—Fight for thyself, O Jesus, fight, and gain a compleat victory over all thy rebellious foes! Arise, O Lord, arise, and reign King of Nations and King of Saints.—*Wednesday, Sept. 12.* This evening preached at *Bromwich*, for the last time; we had a glorious assembly. The people heard with prayer, and their hearty *Amens* were apparently sufficient to melt and soften the hardest heart. This was, truly, a very solemn opportunity; and I was, after sermon, told, it was a most seasonable word, and, they believed, a very useful and refreshing season to the whole congregation.—*Thursday the 13th.* What a display of power and grace have we this day seen at a place called *Gournal*, in the neighbourhood of *Dudley*, where I preached at two o'clock to an astonishing crowd of people.—The solemnity of the hearers was very amazing, and great was the liberty and sweetness

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of spirit I enjoyed while founding the truths of God, and the love of Jesus abroad. The Lord's presence was so conspicuously present in this assembly, that every mind appeared, as it were, over-awed, and all seemed to feel something of his power.—Sweet is the review of this week, and pleasing it is to reflect how many thousands and thousands of souls have heard the gospel, as if they were hearing for their lives.—Praise be to thy name, O Lord! for ever.—May richest grace and mercy ever, ever be the portion of your Ladyship, and of

YOUR LADYSHIP'S

Devoted Servant in the Gospel,

Walsal,
Sept. 14, 1781.

W. P.

Dear MADAM,

THIS is surely a great and glorious day of God's power to his church.—Your heart would leap for joy to behold the power attending the word, in these parts; never did I see such hearers, or so many thousands in any other part of the world. Never do I preach in any of the towns round, but thousands and thousands attend, and with such solemnity as would assure your heart, that more than the form of godliness was amongst them. That
divine

divine and special unction which I here see and feel, I never saw in like manner any where, except in some parts of *Wales*. The Lord, I am sure, has a peculiar favour to these parts of his vineyard; and, while he has a people to gather, or a people to feed, he will send his servants among them to do his work.

—*Saturday, Sept. 15.* Came to *Walsal*, where I am to preach to-morrow morning, and in the evening at *Birmingham*, for the last time now, in the open streets. It is expected, from the manner in which my other labours have been received, that there will be the greatest concourse of people ever seen, to hear the word of God. The Lord, I believe, will go with me.—On *Monday* the 17th, I go for *Bedworth* and *Coventry*. In *Bedworth* and the neighbouring towns I have never preached, but the people have pressed me exceedingly for this visit. It is a very dead country, and should the Lord's power attend the word among them, and a blessing follow, I should wish to continue preaching there ten or twelve days, and from thence proceed to *Norwich*.—The account of *Spa-Fields* rejoices my heart. From the character of Mr. R. I hope the Lord will make him an abundant blessing while there.—*Sunday, Sept. 16.* Bless the Lord, O my soul, for this day's mercies! This has been one of the most glorious days of the Son of Man my eyes ever beheld, or my heart enjoyed.—In the

morning preached at *Walsal*, to a large assembly; but, O! what life, what liberty, and what divine sweetness now appeared! Such attention, earnestness, and solemnity, was seated upon every face, as was wonderful. The Lord's glory did now signally appear; and I believe it was powerfully manifested to the Lord's people, that the name of our *Jesus* was *Emmanuel*, and God with us. The friend of sinners was very present with my own heart, while speaking, and he appeared as graciously present in the midst of the whole assembly. Broken hearts and weeping eyes, under the Lord's word, was a most pleasing sight to behold, and melted my very soul in the dust at the Lord's feet. These are, indeed, happy moments, rich in blessing, when the dear and lovely *Jesus* thus deigns to smile. Here we see the divine reality of religion, and know that the words of *Jesus* are *spirit and life*. In these glorious displays of redeeming power and blessed days of the Son of Man, how are we led to see the airy vanity of a form of godliness without a living power. In the afternoon I preached again at *Birmingham*. The appearance of the morning could only be more than equalled by this. I never remember to have seen so many thousands of people convened together, in the open air, more than twice in my whole life.—My breast was much oppressed by the great exertion in
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the morning ; nevertheless, the Lord gave me strength for his work beyond my expectations. The subject was a close and alarming address to careless sinners, from *Mark*, ch. viii. ver. 36, 37. *What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* —Never, surely, were a people more solemn and attentive. The Lord appeared so present with the word, that the hearers seemed to listen with the greatest degree of earnestness to what the Lord their God would say concerning them; and I do hope there was no small shaking among the dry bones. Come, O breath, from the four winds, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live! Pity, O! pity dying men, but immortal beings, and teach them, O Lord, to be wise, that they may consider their latter end. O, my dearest Lord! on this divine errand of love, my chearful heart would gladly fly, as with the wings of a burning Seraph, to call thy poor wanderers home, that thy house may be filled with guests, *for yet there is room*: yea, Lord, room for the vilest of sinners, even for thy very betrayers and murderers! O, then, let thy kingdom of grace come in this place with power!—*Wednesday, Sept. 19.* On Monday travelled into *Warwickshire*, and this day preached at *Bedworth*, to a small congregation; the Lord was pleased to favour me with

much freedom and boldness, while declaring his truths to dying men. This is a large and populous town, but here religion is at a very low ebb indeed, though the gospel is preached both in the Church and Meeting. Once the cause of God and truth seemed gloriously to flourish in this part of the country, but now all sorts of people appear careless and indifferent; nevertheless, this day they gave me a very serious and attentive hearing, and some wept under the sermon.—*Friday 21.* This day preached at *Coventry*, in *St. Mary's Hall*, to a very fine congregation: but, O! the difference between the appearances of the power of God here and in *Staffordshire*, as well as in my own feelings. The people indeed, in general, were attentive; but nothing of that divine life and special unction which I have lately seen displayed in so glorious a manner amidst surrounding thousands.—As to myself, I cannot say I enjoyed any degree of either liberty or sweetness in preaching, though I was happy in prayer, but my spirit was dreadfully contracted and dry through the whole, while the subject itself was glorious.—These are humbling seasons, but they prove very salutary and profitable to that heart whom God delights to teach. Painful as these seasons are, I would not be without them for the world. 'Tis very good, as well as necessary, that we should know where all our strength is,

is, that we may learn wholly to depend upon Him. To-morrow, I am, God willing, to preach the whole day at *Bedworth*. In this place, I think, the appearances are pleasing and promising.—On *Tuesday* at *Coventry* again.—O that the Lord's glory may there and then gloriously appear!—*Sunday, Sept. 23*. I was this morning taken extremely ill, and was apprehensive it would prevent my preaching, but the Lord, in great mercy and kindness appeared for me, and before the time of divine service I was so far restored, as to be able to preach to a very pleasing and serious assembly. I was favoured with much of the divine presence, and enjoyed much boldness of spirit in proclaiming the truths of God to these poor dead souls; many wept under the sermon. It is very remarkable, the Minister of the church had promised me the use of his pulpit during my stay in these parts, and actually lent it me on *Wednesday* last; but after it was spread through the country that I was to preach again upon the Lord's Day, he sent me word, at eight o'clock on *Saturday* night, that I should no more have the use of his church, as he could not, in conscience, let such a rambling Field-Preacher enter those doors again. However, the large Independent Meeting was immediately offered me, and though it was a very rainy day, there was a blessed congregation gathered together, and

good I really believe was done in the name of the Lord. In the evening I was enabled to preach again. The place was very much crowded with all ranks of people, who listened with great solemnity to the glorious and precious truths of the gospel. I was enabled faithfully to deliver my own soul, as if it was the last time. A divine unction appeared to accompany the word preached; and this morning I was told, by some of the hearers, that a general blessing was dispensed among the people.—There were many thoughtless souls appeared much affected under the sermon, which made their eyes overflow with tears. This blessed prospect gives me a rising hope that this visit, into this dead part of the world, will not be in vain.—*Sept. 25.* This day went to *Coventry*, and preached to a crowded assembly. The Lord was pleased to favour me with a blessed and glorious time. To-day I was as happy as I was miserable on *Friday* last. This has long been a very dead place indeed; but, from the desire of the people now to hear the gospel, and their seriousness and attention in hearing, I would hope the Lord has some work yet to do among them. Every face I saw appeared as if they believed the reality of the truths delivered. O! that the Redeemer of Men may see of the travail of his soul in these perishing sinners, and be satisfied.—My soul longs to hear
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of many being awakened to some kind concern about their eternal welfare, and that they are enquiring the way to *Zion*, with their faces thitherward. O Lord, set thy seal to the word of life, and take to thyself thy great power: Arise, and reign King of Nations, and King of Saints! — *Bedworth, Wednesday 26th.* Glory! Glory! Glory! be to thee, O Lord, for the wondrous displays of thy grace and the manifestations of thy love, in a preached gospel this day! Thy power did indeed signally appear, and the people were bowed under thee. O the comfort, the joy, the delight of my heart, to declare thy precious truths and love to dying men! What attention! What solemnity! What glory did now shine forth! Thy name, O *Jesus*! was as ointment poured forth, and thy people did taste and feel thy love! Every heart was serious, every eye appeared fixed, and every spirit, with my own, melted down with the persuasive energy of thy love! — O praise, praise, eternal praise be to thee. The Lord has surely many people in this place that has long appeared so dull and dead, or the Spirit's power would not thus appear. — *Coventry, Thursday 27.* This day have had a most blessed opportunity of preaching in this city. The congregation was not large, but very serious; *Jesus*, that Man of Sorrows appeared, and shone with a peculiar grace upon my own heart, and I believe
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upon the hearts of his dear people also.—I was particularly led to speak upon the blessing of pardon of sin, and to insist upon the enjoyment of it as a present privilege to the redeemed of the Lord. The Lord, I trust, will revive his work in this dead part of the world, and call home poor lost sinners. O how does my soul long to have God's kingdom come, and his power to go abroad.—*Coventry, Sunday, Sept. 30.* Thanks, thanks, eternal thanks be to thee, O Lord! for the glorious display of thy power, love, and grace, this day. How did thy grace, thy truth, and thy smiles appear!—Preached in the morning to a most solemn assembly. The appearance was delightful to my heart, and great power evidently attended the word spoken. There was a very crowded assembly, and many melted hearts under the word of the Redeemer's grace. Surely, thy arrows, O Lord, did this morning fly abroad, and the people were subdued under the persuasive energy of thy infinite love. In the evening preached again, with equal life, comfort, and joy; now the chapel was more than ever crowded; the vestry, yard, and all were full: but, above all, the glory of the Lord appeared to fill the place. Never was I enabled with greater earnestness to address immortal souls. It fired my very soul to see old and hardened sinners weep, like children, under the word of eternal

nal life. My heart has been made glad to hear of several poor creatures being powerfully awakened. O that the impressions may prove abiding and effectual! These people do truly want a lively and faithful Ministry: and I do verily believe, if this was to be the case, much good would be done for God.—But, alas! the people appear as sheep without a shepherd, and no one cares for their precious and immortal souls! Pity them, O Lord, and arise in mercy to visit them with thy great and glorious salvation, and let thy dear Son and Spirit have praise.—*Monday morning, October 1*, set off for *Norwich*. We travelled an hundred and forty-five miles through the kingdom, and found the roads so delightfully fine and pleasant, that we arrived safe at *Norwich* on *Thursday* evening. Here we were received with great kindness by Mr. L. Mr. C. and some of the gentlemen of the Committee, and other friends, who all most tenderly welcomed us to this city. In the evening, heard Mr. C. preach to a fine congregation of simple-hearted hearers; and, from what now appeared, do believe they are very precious and lively people.—*Norwich, Sunday, October 7*. This morning preached in the chapel to a pleasing congregation. The people appeared very serious, but the chapel was by no means full. I was enabled to speak with plainness upon the glorious subject of redeeming love; but

but did not feel that peculiar liberty and sweetness the Lord is pleased often to give me to enjoy; nevertheless, there seemed to be a sweet unction among many of the dear hearers. This chapel is very commodious, and contains a great number of people; but I think it is a very hard place for a Minister to speak in, and requires great exertion to make the people in every part hear the sound of the Preacher's voice. In the evening preached again; the chapel was now well filled, and the Lord was very gracious. The liberty I, at this season, enjoyed, was far superior to what I felt in the morning service. The Lord's presence appeared evidently with us, a great solemnity was manifested among the people, and the glory of the lovely *Jesus* seemed to shine forth; but still the blessing was more confined to the congregation than bestowed on myself. O, dearest Lord, thou doest all things well, and I am content to be what thou pleatest, if thy work is but done, and thy name glorified among thy dear followers. There were some people very rude in the chapel-yard during the time of sermon. I was much amazed to find this in a place where the gospel had been preached for so many years: but so it is, and ever will be, with the human heart, till subdued by an almighty power. O may that power, in this great city, be so displayed, that thou-

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sands of perishing sinners may come and enlist themselves under the blessed and glorious banner of the King and Captain of our Salvation.—Forget not, dear Madam, in secret, him, who is

Your faithful and devoted Servant,
in the Gospel of Christ,

Norwich,
October 8, 1781.

W. P.



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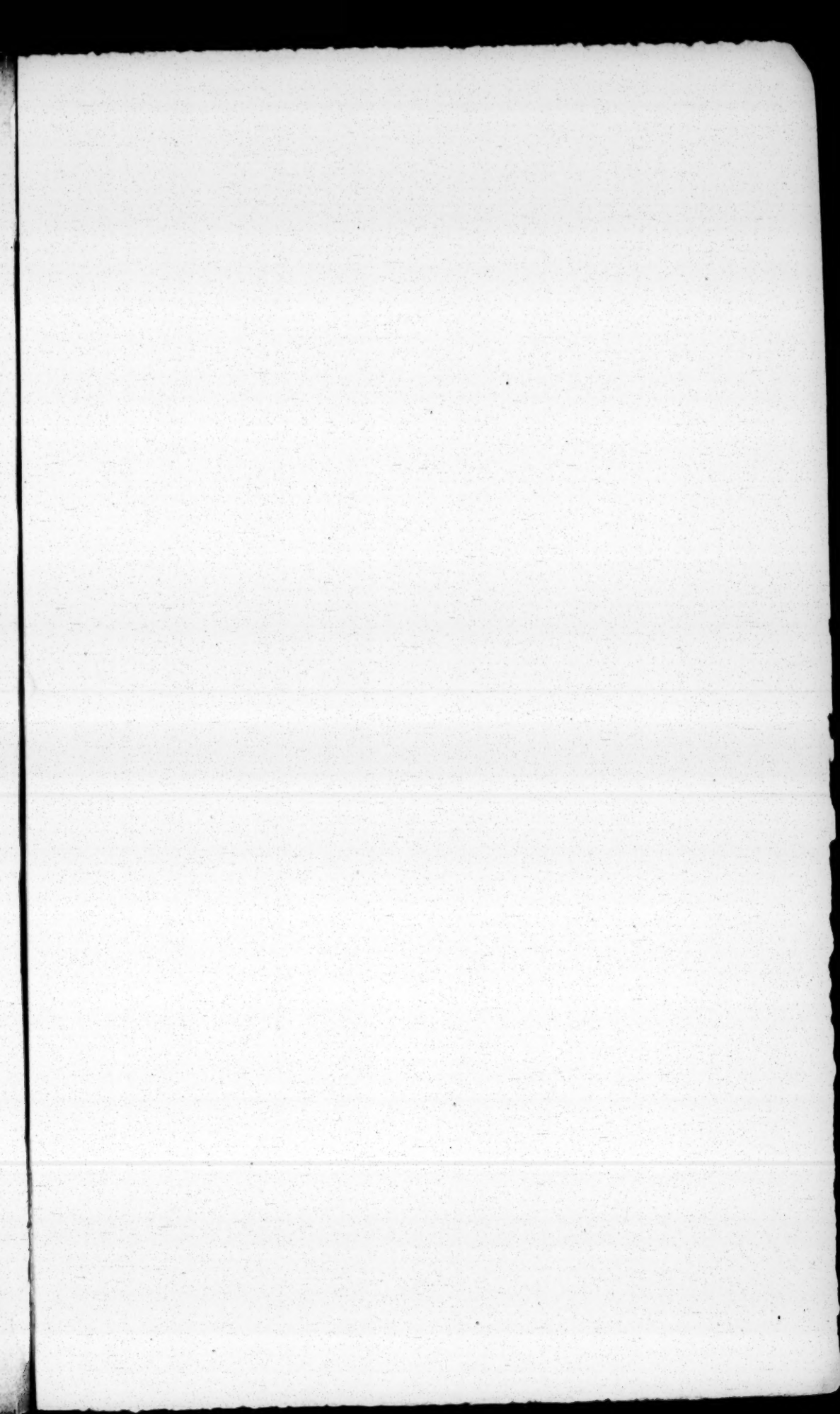
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